

249034

JPRS-NEA-85-100

1 August 1985

Near East/South Asia Report

19980226 169

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1 August 1985

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

ARAB LEAGUE OFFICIAL ON WAR OF ATTRITION

LD152222 Kuwait KUNA in Arab 1600 GMT 15 Jul 85

/Text/ Tunis 15 Jul (KUNA)--A prominent official of the Arab League called here today on the Arab countries to "launch a war of attrition against the Zionist entity in order to increase the enemy's economic and military confusion." He stressed it is now impossible for Israel to launch a new war against the Arabs because of the deterioration of its economy to the degree of collapse on one hand, and, on the other hand, because of the military defeat the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance inflicted on it after the invasion of Lebanon.

The Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestinian Affairs, Dr Muhammad al-Farra said in a press conference: "Previously, during the past two sessions of the supervisors of the affairs of the Palestinians in the host countries, we warned the Arabs about the dangerous level of the Israeli economy. What we expected has been proved, because the studies carried out by the General Department for Palestinian Affairs were based on purely scientific data completely without embellishment."

He added: "What we expected has been proved, even the Zionist entity's minister of finance admitted to the Knesset in statements relayed by the Israeli and Western media, that rescuing the Israeli economy is now impossible and what is possible is just stopping the current deterioration."

Dr al-Farra said that the deterioration of the economic situation in the Zionist entity has led to the increase in the counteremigration from it to the United States, Canada and some European countries in spite of the aid, grants and loans which the United States has given to this entity, amounting to \$7 billion in addition to the huge military aid and the establishment of an Israeli-American free zone. The Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestinian affairs stressed that "the current deteriorating situation in Israel demands the holding of an urgent Arab summit meeting for consultations and the adoption of the required stances."

He said: "Unfortunately, this meeting has not taken place yet, bearing in mind that drawing a united Arab plan, represented by a war of attrition against the Zionist enemy is most necessary especially in these circumstances. It will strengthen the position of the Arab political movements, and at the same time increase the demolition of the illusion which controls the minds of some people, especially outside the Arab nation, of that Israel is an unbeatable state."

He added: "The Palestinian-Lebanese steadfastness--in Beirut in particular in spite of its siege for 88 days by the Israeli forces--the continuation of the joint resistance in south Lebanon; the collapse of 17th May agreement, and the forcing of Israel to withdraw the majority of its forces from the biggest part of what it occupied in Lebanon because of its huge losses in lives and equipment in addition to the huge losses which it still suffers as a result of the fierceness of the guerrilla operations inside the occupied Palestine--all these proved that Israel is nothing but an illusion created by our enemies to terrorize us, and unfortunately we believed this illusion for a period of time."

In reply to a question, Dr Al-Farra refuted the probability of Israel launching a new lightning war against one of the neighboring Arab countries in order to distract the Israelis from their economic problems on the one hand, and on the other to obtain new financial and economic aid from the United States.

He said: "It is true that Israel in the past whenever it faced an economic crisis, hastened to fabricate a situation followed by an attack against the neighboring Arab countries in order, on the one hand, to distract the Israelis from this crisis, and on the other hand to obtain new economic and military aid from its Western allies, with the United States at the forefront, after presenting the Israeli Army as the undefeatable defender of the Western presence in the region, if we can use such an expression."

Dr al-Farra pointed out that Israel resorted to war when its economic indicators were just about 1 percent before June 1967, and these indicators went up to 11.8 percent after the war because of the huge aid and donations which poured from the United States and a number of European countries, in addition to the Jewish communities of the world.

He hastened to add however: The Israeli situation is now completely different from what it was in the past, and as far as financial, economic and military aid to Israel is concerned, the American situation in particular and the Western situation in general is different from what they were in the past."

The Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestinian Affairs made it clear that the United States which has provided Israel with massive assistance has called upon the government of the Zionist entity to pursue a policy of austerity due to the massiveness of the assistance it has rendered to it. The call was in vain however, as the Israeli economy continued to fall from one depression to another. He added: "In addition to that, the United States itself has suffered losses in human and material terms as a result of the war waged by Israel against the Palestinians and the Lebanese in Lebanon--let alone the shaking of the portrait of the Israeli Army itself inside the Zionist entity and outside. This is what has prompted the American Government at present to increase its support to Shimon Peres because he is more responsive to it as regards finding a sort of settlement to the Middle East question which is under the shadow of the impossibility of achieving a new Israeli military victory."

Dr Al-Farra stressed anew the necessity of activating the Arab fronts adjacent to occupied Palestine entangle Israel with operations that will exhaust even more its deteriorating economy and to form the basis for an Arab move within

a framework of solidarity. He added: "We should move strongly and swiftly now because the circumstances are favorable. And we must realize that the world does not listen to whoever sits still."

Dr al-Farra also called on the Arabs to pay more attention to the question of the steadfastness of the occupied territories' population "because the support through the radio stations is insufficient" and said: "I will concentrate my attention now on Gaza Sector which I consider the forgotten sector...or the severed sector from the rest of the neighboring Arab countries to occupied Palestine partly because of the sea which borders it on two sides and partly because of the presence of the Zionist occupation forces on its other two sides.

Dr al-Farra stated that the economic and social conditions and particularly the health conditions are "more than saddening" at the various cities and villages of Gaza Sector. He added that the sector lacks medical clinics and the various projects which could insure a financial income for its sons that would help them to continue their steadfastness in the face of the various methods of suppression, starvation and the confiscation of land which the Israeli enemy practice. He added that it is possible for the Arabs to support the people of the sector to be steadfast if they helped them in marketing their citrus produce and their crafts' products /word indistinct/ and if they could secure jobs for about 3,629 graduates from among their unemployed sons.

He explained that among those unemployed graduates in Gaza Sector there are 52 doctors, 250 agricultural engineers, 850 arts graduates, 97 science graduates, 1,023 diploma holders, 236 law graduates, 18 physiotherapy specialists, 42 nurses, 15 MSC holders and 2 doctorate degree holders.

CSO: 4500/157

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

BEIRUT DAILY: REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS AGAINST HUMAN JUSTICE

Beirut ZARTONK in Armenian 11 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] At the beginning of last April, after hearing about President Reagan's interview published in HURRIYET on 24 March--where Reagan explicitly stated that he will oppose the Congressional resolution to set aside a "Remembrance Day" for the victims of the Armenian genocide--Congressman Richard Lehman declared that he feels "insulted" when the President of the United States agrees to have a "National Hamburger Day" but refuses to approve a proposal to designate April 24 as the "Day of Man's Inhumanity to Man."

Having heard about the outcome of the House vote on June 3, when the sponsors of HJR 192 failed to muster enough votes to ensure its passage and when 180 congressmen rejected the evidence for the Armenian genocide, we feel that it was not just we who were "insulted", but also human justice which is supposedly championed by the leader of the "free" world, the United States of America, headed by President Reagan himself. This is not the first time that this has happened. On several other occasions, President Reagan has judged human justice, the peoples' legitimate rights and universal morality less than a hamburger, and he has done so against the wishes of his own nation and by blackmailing the people's representatives as he has done in this instance.

President Reagan is truly consistent in his attitude of contempt for all these. Even disregarding his scornful stance toward Central America, the Middle East and other issues, the case of the commemoration of the Armenian genocide is sufficient to exemplify his attitude. His repeated pronouncements in favor of recognizing the Armenian genocide during his first election campaign notwithstanding, after he became president Reagan lost hardly any time to ignore justice and to take a position against Armenian rights. Beginning with the notorious statement published in the August 1982 edition of the [State Department] BULLETIN, through the Republican Convention in Dallas on 20 August 1984 when the Republic election platform was put together, we have witnessed the same consistent attitude by him and his administration against Armenian rights. Another example of that stance was Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's anti-Armenian testimony before the House International Affairs Committee on 21 February 1985.

In that testimony and in other public speeches, the reasoning articulated by Reagan and his administration was that the recognition of the genocide would alienate "an important ally" like Turkey on the one hand and encourage anti-Turkish terrorism on the other.

We find both objections unfounded. Firstly, Turkey would not be alienated but would put on the appearance of being alienated if the genocide was recognized because that country is aware of its guilt and knows that without Reagan's America it is a sick man condemned to death. And secondly, by this time Reagan should know that by refusing to recognize the genocide he is driving desperate and disillusioned Armenian youths into terrorism.

Therefore, one is left with only one explanation: President Reagan and his administration are unfortunately hostile to the Armenian cause because they know full well that the recognition of the genocide is not and cannot be an end in itself for the Armenian people and that such a recognition will be followed by our just demands for fair restitution. In view of postures adopted by President Reagan with regard to other international and regional issues, we are firmly convinced that President Reagan and his administration are opposed to human justice.

Even so, this posture taken by President Reagan will not be able to drive our people in the diaspora and particularly in the United States into helplessness. We will continue our political struggle and we will eventually succeed to restore justice. As Charles Pashayan, an Armenian-American congressman from California, told MILLIYET in a recent interview, we will be able to declare: "If this resolution is not endorsed in 1984, we will resubmit it in 1985. If it fails again, we will do the same thing the next year and the next. We will continue trying till eternity." That is correct: till eternity.

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CSO: 4605/186

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

DAILY COMMENTS ON TURKISH MEDIA'S ANTI-ARMENIAN 'PROVOCATIONS'

Beirut ARARAT in Armenian 11 Jun 85 p 2

[Text] There is always a noose around the neck of Turkish-Armenians. It comes in the form of murderous fingers, sometimes rough and bloodstained and sometimes gloved in velvet. In both cases, however, the purpose is to strangle the imprisoned hostage at the opportune moment.

One cannot conclude anything else when one reads a certain segment of the Turkish press which acts as the mouthpiece of that country's most fanatical and anti-Armenian elements. We read in that press: "The Armenians... The Armenians... We have grown tired of hearing about them. May their hands be broken. May the rotten brains of those savage beasts be paralyzed. May molten lava pour on their perverted heads."

However, this Turkish press does not define a timetable. When will these cravings emanating from the depths of the hate-filled Turkish soul be put into practice?

Furthermore, with an eye to prejustifying the future crimes the poisonous Turkish press makes a fear-inspiring attribution--for a covert purpose. It alleges that there are Armenians among the Turkish "terrorists" and that some of these Turkish-born "traitors" work for the Armenians having been perverted by them.

With these accusations, the said Turkish papers turn their stare to the Turkish-Armenians, in particular the Armenian community of Istanbul.

The Armenian community of Turkey is naturally terrified with these accusations and feels like a hostage in the hands of the Turkish government. The Turkish papers write whatever they wish about "Armenian terrorism." Our readers are familiar with the distortions and accusations that fill these papers whose writers compete with each other to fabricate imaginary stories and conclusions. That is their job. We understand, and we have nothing to say against them--or rather we have already stated why they write and why they fill their pages with such babble. But it is a different question when the government begins playing the vile role of accuser and provoker.

As one can conclude from these "intellectual gems" we have collected from the Turkish press, the government has brought its propaganda machinery into full

play. The Turkish television has begun to complete what press organs inspired from well-known dark sources could not finish. [The government] uses these methods to awaken the monster of Turkish national fanaticism which, if not dormant, has been in a state of hibernation for several decades, particularly since the 1950's when those hyenas raided the Armenian and Greek cemeteries. Everyone knows that those desecrators ended their macabre partying before the torn shutters of Armenian-owned stores in Istanbul. "The Armenians... The Armenians..." What is the Turkish television trying to suggest? Is the blood of 2 million Armenians, that still stains its paws and mouth, not enough? Is not a ruined and occupied Western Armenia enough? How can so much hatred and poison emanate from the unctuous lips of "democratic and civilized Turkey" whom the United States of Kissinger--and Reagan--knows only to flirt with and to embrace firmly in its arms. The United States is doing so now to prove yet again that it is a justice and freedom-loving "great" power and to enable Turkish nationalism rid itself, at the opportune moment, of the "Armenian nightmare" from which it has been suffering since 1915 and whose ghost still haunts it more than 70 years after the genocide. "The Armenians..." There is so much devilish craving and lust in that utterance whose ultimate goal is the completion of Talat's unfinished dream.

We appreciate the concerns of our Turkish-Armenian kinsmen even when they say and write certain things unwillingly, sometimes even through the mouth of the Armenian Patriarch of Turkey. But why are they responsible for acts which they neither participate in nor are even remotely linked with? After all, what is Ankara looking for when it threatens the entire community? What is known as "Armenian terrorism" has its planners and players. Rightly or wrongly these individuals operate with their own convictions and of their own volition, and the party to blame for their acts is once again the Turkish government.

The only option remaining to that government is to confront the ones who have the courage to stand up against it and who are no less courageous to take responsibility for their acts. The Turkish government must stop bothering the Turkish-Armenians and must stop thinking that it can intimidate or subdue the others by pressuring the "hostages." It seems that the perpetrators of these acts have nothing to lose except their refugee's identity, after having lost their ancestral homes, after having wept for 70 years over the unknown tombs of 2 million victims and after having been eroded by ocean of world citizenry.

It was possible to remain unconcerned as long as it was the Turkish press which authored this babbling. But when the government itself takes on the role of provoker and accuser the issue becomes extremely serious, and the door is opened to every eventuality. Let us not forget that the genocide would not have assumed the dimensions it has now if it was not a government which organized and implemented it, which provoked the Turkish mob and which awakened their fanaticism by exploiting religion, the heavens and greed.

This means that the genocide planned and implemented by the government continues today--only with more subtle and covert means. It is now time to settle scores with the "remnants."

And why should that not be so? After all, the perpetrator of the crime has a powerful protector and sponsor.

The latest evidence of this is the refusal of the U.S. House of Representatives to endorse a resolution condemning the Armenian genocide. California Governor George Deukmejian reacted by expressing regret that this was done at the urging of President Reagan so that a "loyal ally like Turkey would not be alienated."

The congressional vote was not enough. The White House's explanation about what happened rubbed salt on our gaping wound.

Indeed, a White House spokesman reportedly said: "Allowing such a resolution to gain strength means a slap in the face of a loyal ally."

This chirping "spokesman" fails to note, however, that in order to appease Turkey the "ally" it is possible to slap the victim, namely the Armenian nation, justice and the Armenian cause and to strike an even bigger slap at the face of the United States which professes with daily reminders to be the uncompromising champion of liberty, justice, national self-determination and human rights.

It is such a powerful slap that we blush for the United States, not so much for the physical pain but for its moral anguish.

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CSO: 4605/187

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

DEATH PENALTY DEMANDED FOR TURKISH 'SMUGGLER' AT ASALA TRIAL

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 18 Jun 85 pp 1,4

[Text] Ankara--The Ankara military prosecutor has demanded a second death penalty for renowned smuggler Behcet Canturk, one of the most prominent figures of the underworld, in connection with charges of collaborating with ASALA [Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia] as well as drug smuggling.

Canturk and his codefendants are currently facing the following charges: Narcotics and arms smuggling, collaboration with the Kurdistan Workers' Party, jewelry smuggling and gold and foreign currency smuggling. Apart from these, Canturk and a number of codefendants will face charges in the "ASALA trial" which begins today at the 1st Military Court of the Ankara Martial Law Command.

The indictment for this trial states that Canturk collaborated with ASALA and organized the well-known Grand Bazaar terrorist incident. The indictment says in this regard:

"Behcet Canturk has confessed that he is Kurdish from his father's side and Armenian from his mother's side. He refuses to be a Turk. He has on several occasions declared that Kurdish is his mother tongue and that Kurdish must be taught in schools. He is an enemy of Ataturk and the Turkish flag and insists that the Turkish flag not be flown on official holidays. Indoctrinated with these ideas, he has evaded military service by producing a forged medical report which claims that he has physical disabilities. He has provided financial assistance to separatist organizations and has supplied arms to the secret Kurdish organization known as the PKK [Partiya Karkerin Kurdistan].

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CSO: 4605/184

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

PARENTS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST SENDING SONS TO AFGHANISTAN--ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY--Last month in Soviet Armenia 200 parents of Soviet Armenian soldiers demonstrated against the impending deployment of their sons to Afghanistan. In the five and one-half years since the Soviets intervened in Afghanistan this is the first public protest that has been announced in the Soviet Union. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS, reporting from Moscow on information collected from reliable sources, added: This demonstration on 20 May [30 Ordibehesht] took place in Yerevan, the capital of Armenian SSR, in front of the Military Commissar's building, which is the center for conscription. About 40 demonstrators were detained and released the same day. According to this report, official sources did not confirm this news item. At the same time, the newspaper KOMMUNIST, which is the organ of the Communist Party of Armenian SSR, told the French correspondent that it had no information on this. It is necessary to mention that since the Soviets intervened in Afghanistan in 1979, there has never been any news of public demonstrations in the Soviet Union. [Text] [Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Jun 85 p 1] 9310

CSO: 4640/618

ALGERIA

GHARDAIA INCIDENT CAUSED BY LAND DISPUTE

Algiers ALGERIE ACTUALITE in French 13-19 Jun 85 p 12

[Article by Meziane Ourad: "For a Plot of Land"]

[Text] Sunday, 10 June. We enter the town from the airport toward 7 a.m. Too early, in this month of Ramadan, when nights are favored and the night owls are happy.

Ghardaia is still asleep. Only a few errands, wary sandals violate the silence that still envelops the capital of M'Zab. The security services are there also. They are keeping a lookout for trouble, because this first week of June has not been just a regular week in Ghardaia. The legendary calm of the fortified city has been disturbed by some relatively serious events. As everyone knows, rumors tend to exaggerate the facts. But Ghardaia was the scene of violent disturbances.

Yes, there have been disturbances in Ghardaia and there is an explanation for them. Yesterday, in one of the calmest European capitals people conducted themselves with rare bestiality. Here, there was a riot. The spirit of tribalism has unfortunately not yet been eliminated everywhere. A familiar evil. Our country does not escape it. Its manifestations are as various as they are numerous. What about the Ghardaia incidents?

The Daya agricultural area, which was the subject of the dispute, was only the excuse for settling a secular misunderstanding between two neighboring communities. The Mozabites and the M'dabhias, each adherents of different sects (respectively Ibadites and Malekites) have long lived together peacefully. We have even seen the establishment of mixed families in recent years. Certainly, there have sometimes been low periods, and scuffles have ensued. Never anything more. Why, then, the break in the dam this time.

What exactly happened last weekend in Ghardaia? The issue dates back to the 1970's, the time when the Mozabites decided to go and develop the land in the area called Lahdira (around Daya't Ben Dahoua). The people of Daya did not accept these fellahs of Ghardaia.

However, the latter stayed anyway and worked the land to which they had laid claim.

Years passed during which there were incidents and friction but nothing serious. Things could have gone on in the same way, however, with the new administrative districting, the Daya inhabitants, thinking that the establishment of a communal people's assembly (APC) in their village meant creation of "autonomy," "decided" to expel the fellahs of Ghardaia origin who had been settled in their area for at least a decade.

After much debate, the Ghardaia administration decided, despite everything, to register the disputed land in the name of those working it. When this was done, the M'dabhias of Daya reacted with violence and fire. They burned the crops and the equipment of their "antagonists," and beat them for good measure. This happened on the afternoon of 5 June. In Ghardaia the reaction occurred after the breaking of the fast. Groups of young men who had learned about the fate of the members of their community at Daya attacked M'dabhias living in the Khaled Ibn El Walid mosque area in Ghardaia. The riot resulted in two killed and 56 injured, six of them seriously. The effect on the town of this attack was more than regrettable.

Dozens of shops, small production units and cars were burned.

The security services, taken by surprise initially, fortunately reacted very well thereafter. We must take our hat off to the town authorities, who judiciously intervened to restore calm, calling together and talking with the religious and civil representatives of the parties involved. When we left, Ghardaia was already back in operation, with all the shops open, as well as the markets and other public places. Repair of the damaged shops was already underway. Within a week, perhaps, there will be no sign of the events. Yes, life is resuming very well in Ghardaia. Everyone hopes that after this the bitter taste of wanton, condemnable violence has disappeared forever.

Accountable for their actions, on either side? Certainly not. The main winners in this whole uproar will only have been the passion created possibly by the Ramadan fever and, finally and primarily, stupidity.

The Ghardaia events were perhaps salutary and symptomatic of the good health of our society, which has demonstrated in this matter its devotion to a symbol and a love thought to have disappeared: love and passion for the land. The government's decision to grant land ownership to citizens is not utopian or derived from some phantasmagoric ideological whim, but a reality. This has been shown at Ghardaia, about which it was said there is nothing to plant and nothing grows.

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CSO: 4519/154

1 August 1985

EGYPT

BUDAPEST TV INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER

LD072121 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 7 Jul 85

[From "The Week" program; Alajos Chrudinak interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid "recently in Budapest"; recorded, no video available; Al-Majid in Arabic with superimposed Hungarian translation]

[Text] [Chrudinak] Mr Foreign Minister, you, together with the late President Anwar al-Sadat, took part in the preparation and working out of the Camp David agreement, which was promoted by the United States. I saw how Anwar al-Sadat relied on the Americans 100 percent, and not 99 percent, as some people say.

['Abd-al-Majid] Yes.

[Chrudinak] He hoped that the Americans would help him, and exert pressure on Israel. However, this did not take place. To this very day, this has not occurred. It appears to me, and I hope I am not wrong, that President Mubarak also is increasingly waiting for such American pressure, but it seems in vain.

['Abd-al-Majid] We must not underestimate the capabilities of the United States as regards its relations with Israel. There is no doubt that the United States is the closest to Israel. If there is any country at all which is able to influence Israel, then it is the United States.

The basis of the entire peace initiative then was that the United States was a partner with full rights in the working out of the people. However, the obligation of the partner is that it should make efforts and I believe that it made such efforts so that peace between Egypt and Israel should be realized, but we still demand further action from it in connection with the settlement of the Palestinian issue. This is proved by our most recent initiatives, too.

[Chrudinak] However, if I am right, President Mubarak himself said that Israel does not even carry out the Camp David Agreement. You have become completely isolated, and you have no benefit from this separate deal.

['Abd-al-Majid] Look, I do not agree with you, for example, in that Egypt has become isolated. Egypt is not isolated. Those who tried to cut off Egypt have become isolated. Egypt's policy is clear whether as regards its relations with the Arab countries or its responsibility in the region.

[Chrudinak] But those relations now are much worse than they were previously.

['Abd-al-Majid] No. Look, there might be certain differences with certain Arab countries. If, for example, we take our relations with Jordan, I do not believe that Egypt might be so very isolated.

[Chrudinak] That is a new thing.

['Abd-al-Majid] So what? Since Egypt left the Arab League, the situation of the Arab countries has been pitiable and sad.

[Chrudinak] Would you like to return to the Arab League?

['Abd-al-Majid] We do not want to. But if they want to settle their relations with us, we shall welcome it.

[Chrudinak] But you still have not replied to the question of what advantages for Egypt stem from the Camp David agreement? Why does Israel not carry out the Camp David Agreement? What are you debating about?

['Abd-al-Majid] I shall tell you at once. We do not agree with Israel in the interpretation of the expression "autonomy". They imagine that this autonomy....

[Chrudinak] Palestinian autonomy.

['Abd-al-Majid] Yes, the Palestinians--that is why there is a dispute between Egypt and Israel. Of course, there are other reasons too, for example because of the region of Taba. You raised Camp David. The greatest dispute between us and the Israelis is because of the Palestinian issue. According to us, the Palestinians have the right to autonomy, however, we should like the Palestinian problem to cease with this autonomy. Israel does not accept this.

However, there are other differences between Egypt and Israel. For example, because Israel overran Lebanon. We condemn Israel's aggression in Lebanon. After the Sabra and Chatila massacres, we recalled our ambassador from Israel. Israel is not willing to evacuate the region of Taba, that is Egyptian territory. We have expressed our dissatisfaction for this reason too.

It seems now that Israel is drawing closer. Peres' government is endeavoring to politicize more flexibly. We welcome this, and similarly to them, we are becoming flexible.

[Chrudinak] For 3 years after coming to power, President Mubarak did not make a single foreign political step. Then, this year, he unexpectedly came out with an initiative. But it appears that neither America nor Israel support it. Even 'Arafat has rejected it. Neither has Husayn been enthusiastic about it. What is the situation now regarding the Mubarak initiative?

['Abd-al-Majid] You are suggesting the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, or rather, some ideas of President Mubarak related to this, no?

[Chrudinak] Yes, Mubarak's initiative.

['Abd-al-Majid] The basis of this was the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement which was signed on 11 February. We consider it to be an extremely positive and useful step. Egypt supports this agreement, because it created a framework for the sides affected which enables a dialogue.

[Chrudinak] Nonetheless, it is said that President Mubarak wanted to revive the spirit of Camp David with this initiative, since he too, just as his predecessor, wants to leave everything to the United States, so that the United States should negotiate, mediate and so on. This is a return to Camp David.

['Abd-al-Majid] No, not at all.

[Chrudinak] But 'Arafat also said this when he rejected Mubarak's initiative.

['Abd-al-Majid] Look, 'Arafat also--let us be a bit more precise. First of all, this has nothing to do with Camp David because this is an agreement between Jordan and Palestine, an independent agreement.

[Chrudinak] But 'Arafat rejected Mubarak's initiative, what is more, he did so officially.

['Abd-al-Majid] No, what 'Arafat demands is that only he, that is the PLO, should determine who from among the Palestinians should be included in the negotiating team. We support 'Arafat in this. In other words, America cannot force its own Palestinian nominees on to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This would be unacceptable. Nor can Israel force 'Arafat to accept certain Palestinian personalities, it cannot determine with whom it is willing to negotiate. Egypt wants nothing beyond getting the Palestinian issue moving. Because if it stays at a standstill then it could simply cease to exist. This is an issue that cannot be solved with slogans, speeches or statements. The essence of the problem is that the Palestinian people exist.

[Chrudinak] I recently met with the editor, Haykal, who said that Egypt, Jordan and also 'Arafat are all well aware that there is no hope for any sort of solution, that there will not be a solution. Nonetheless, they are behaving as if there were hopes of a settlement.

['Abd-al-Majid] Yes, I understand.

[Chrudinak] Nonetheless, they are active, just as if they were doing something, they are negotiating, but only in order to save themselves, to survive this inability to do anything.

['Abd-al-Majid] Well, well.

[Chrudinak] This is according to Haykal.

['Abd-al-Majid] I can hear what you are saying but if Mr Haykal knows a better solution, why does he not tell us about it?

[Chrudinak] In his opinion there is no solution. There is no solution at the present time because of the relations of strength internationally and in the Middle East.

['Abd-al-Majid] In that case, what should we do? Should we just look on and keep silent? Or should we make some endeavors, in case there might be some sort of movement?

[Chrudinak] No, what Haykal says is essentially that the unfavorable relations of strength should be altered.

['Abd-al-Majid] And what will change these? Tell Mr Haykal that if he knows a good solution, he should tell me about it. I am willing.

[Chrudinak] Mr Haykal was advisor to several Egyptian presidents.

['Abd-al-Majid] Yes, of course. Mr Haykal is my friend and so on.

[Chrudinak] Really?

['Abd-al-Majid] But I would like to know if he has some sort of solution as regards the relations of strength. If he has, let him tell us about it. We shall listen to him.

[Chrudinak] He believes that the relations of strength could be changed first and foremost by involving the Soviet Union to a greater extent in the settlement process and by your not relying in a one-sided and exclusive manner on the United States. It is an old saying that in politics, he who is weak gets nothing. Do you agree with this?

['Abd-al-Majid] Naturally, I agree 100 percent that the weak get nothing. But in my opinion we are not weak. We, that is, the Arab countries, are not weak. Do not say these things to us, to Egypt, but to others. We are taking steps. It was Egypt which in earlier years made the greatest military endeavors, in 1973.

[Chrudinak] It is said in Damascus that you are creating a political axis with Jordan, 'Arafat and Baghdad, that is, Iraq, which is aimed primarily against Syria, which threatens Syria.

['Abd-al-Majid] We oppose any sort of axis. This is because we are convinced that it is precisely an axis policy that can inflict the greatest damage on the Arab countries. Egypt is not willing to form such an axis. Egypt wants to live in friendship with all the countries. We have relations of friendship with the United States and with the countries of West Europe, but we would also like to have friendship with the Soviet Union and the socialist countries as well.

CSO: 4500/159

EGYPT

NATIONAL DATA BANK TO OPEN

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 13 Jun 85 p 2

[Text]

THE first comprehensive national data bank will be operating next week to provide scientists and researchers with accurate information gathered from original sources in various countries. The data are mainly available in the fields of medicine, industry, agriculture energy, science and technology.

The project, which is the outcome of an agreement between the Scientific Research Academy and the US Agency for International Development, opens the door for the establishment of a national data industry, said Dr Mohamed Kamel, Chairman of the Academy.

Accordingly, data and basic information on Egypt could be organised in a way which allows exchanges for other information enabling

Egypt to cope with international technology, for the sake of developing the country's economic plans, said Dr Kamel.

The general framework of the network is based on five specialised units, which maintain the role of a mediator between the source of the information and the one requiring it. These units which use small computers to process the data are connected to each other to facilitate giving the required information.

Finding specialists to undertake the process was a difficult task, said Mr Ahmed Abdul Baset, Director of the project. The training of 1,000 male and female youth took place at the expense of the project for the sake of qualifying specialised

Egyptian cadres in this field.

As for non-Egyptian data, the network has been linked to one of the international networks and the maximum period for obtaining information does not exceed three weeks. When dealing with less subjects the information can be obtained in not more than 36 hours.

The cost of each piece of information amounts to 60 dollars but the service is offered in return of LE 20 only and the rest is borne by the project in a subsidy in one of the most important services. The network has so far cost 4.5 million dollars, said Mr Abdul Baset. During the preliminary stages of the project, it is possible to offer more than 3,000 pieces of information in all development fields. GSS

CSO: 4500/160

EGYPT

SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR ISSUES STATEMENT ON ACCUSATIONS OF CORRUPTION

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Jun 85 p 6

[Text] Counselor 'Abd-al-Qadir Ahmad 'Ali, the socialist public prosecutor, issued the following statement:

The socialist public prosecutor followed the discussions that took place in the People's Assembly during its session on Monday morning of 10 June 1985, and the socialist public prosecutor would like to clarify the following:

First: He would like to stress first and foremost that he does not pay much attention to lies instigated by stiff-necked liars because of incidents of corruption that have been attributed to them and that are under investigation by the public prosecutor's office and the court of ethics.

Second: The socialist public prosecutor does not intend by this statement of his to defend himself or his colleagues, with whom he has had and still has the honour of cooperating in carrying out the mission, because no one can accuse them, unless it is someone who is guilty of a crime that has encompassed him, and who is today on his way to be questioned about it and punished.

Third: No one can doubt or dispute the fact that the office of the socialist public prosecutor is one of the mainstays of the system of government that is based on the principle of integrity. It is what has become established in the conscience and heart of the people, and what the general committee of the People's Assembly itself acknowledged when last July it looked into renominating the socialist public prosecutor for a new term.

Fourth: The socialist public prosecutor would like it to be crystal clear that stiff-necked behavior by an individual within the People's Assembly will not achieve a single one of the intended goals. The plan has been exposed, and Egypt, its leadership and its people, will never be deceived, and the office of the socialist prosecutor will continue, by the will and grace of God, to carry out its mission based on trustworthiness (its resoluteness will not be turned aside by a corrupt word or an ignorant course).

Fifth: When the Court of Ethics issued its ruling on 30 March 1985 in the case of corrupt acts by some bank employees and currency merchants, it decided to write down in its opinions those matters which had become fixed in its conscience and concerning which it formulated advisements which it broadcast to the public.

After this ruling was issued, the People's Assembly decided to form a special committee to suggest ways that it might deal with the issues that member Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id had brought to light concerning this case. The committee concluded in its unanimous report which it presented to the People's Assembly on 18 May 1985 that discussion of these matters should be postponed until after the investigations had been completed and the ruling had become final, in order to avoid any suspicion that the investigations had been influenced. The report was presented to the respected Assembly, which decided to agree with what the committee had decided.

However, the aforementioned member did not end his attempt to influence the investigation and the court ruling.

Sixth: The socialist public prosecutor, in adhering to the rules of the constitution and the law, is careful not to bring up or discuss matters that his office is investigating, or the charges that are being brought up before the Court of Ethics, because that is the essence of the work of investigating and charging that his assistants have been entrusted with. All of them are members of judicial agencies; they possess neutrality, impartiality, and independence, and there is no power over them other than that of the law and their consciences. In addition, bringing up and discussing these incidents would create hostility towards the power of the courts while they were still in its hands.

Seventh: Following that, something must be said about that futile attempt that had been preceded by other more disastrous attempts on the part of the aforementioned member made while he was minister of economy, suggesting that the socialist public prosecutor and members of his family had acquired loans from the banks. His intent in that was to equate his situation and that of members of his family with the situation trumped up against the socialist public prosecutor and members of his family.

Eighth: The indisputable fact is that throughout his service not only in the socialist prosecutor's office but also throughout the period during which he worked in the judiciary, close to 40 years, the socialist public prosecutor did not acquire any loans or facilitations from any of the banks. Nor did he offer securities to anyone, not even his sons or relatives, or withdraw sums openly, and in this regard he challenges anyone to prove any aspect of that. It would have been within the power of the aforementioned member to do that, and many times before when all the banks, and especially the Central Bank, had been in the palm of his hand, he had tried to acquire proof of his claims, but he failed. The socialist public prosecutor began to demand that he present that proof. He only intends to distort and deceive with lies and falsehoods in order to malign honourable people so that he will not be along on the stage.

Ninth: If the aforementioned People's Assembly member had intended to point to the food security project pertaining to Engineer Ahmad Hani 'Abd-al-Qadir Ahmad 'Ali, that was an unintentional good deed of his. It presented the opportunity to shed light on the details of this plan, which is considered to be an ideal example of the citizen's honourable dealings with the banks, and which is a fruitful endeavor for the nation and its citizens, that in the following manner:

1- The aforementioned engineer and his brother own 10 feddans along the agricultural road between al-Zaqaziq and al-Mansurah in al-Sharqiyah governorate. It had been sold to them by their father more than 3 years before he took his current post, and he had inherited this land from his father in 1963. Before the project was set up, 1 feddan was valued at more than 100,000 pounds.

2- Engineer Hani got a license to establish a fallow-land project according to the rules of ministerial decree No 36 of 1982. After exhaustive study and research, the National Development Bank agreed to open a current account for establishing the project in the amount of 467,000 pounds with an annual interest rate of 14 percent, and a current account for financing the project's supplies and equipment with free currency in the amount of 249,500 pounds sterling at an interest rate of 17 percent. Thus the total value of the loan is 767,000 pounds.

3- The company that is setting up the project and that is administering its affairs until the loan is repaid is the Middle East Company for Land Reclamation and Development of Agricultural and Livestock Industries. Its owner will not have any power, rights or control over it until the loan is repaid. The company secured the loan by mortgaging the land and whatever installations will be built on it. Even though those securities were enough, Engineer Ahmad Hani also mortgaged an area of 4 feddans of arable land.

Ninth: The socialist public prosecutor thanks God that he has had the opportunity to lay the facts before the people in this statement and to make things clear within the limits imposed on him at present, in order to fulfill the promise that he will make all the facts public concerning the other incidents that are still being investigated as soon as they are done with according to the schedule.

Concerning the matters that the aforementioned member of the People's Assembly asked the public prosecutor to investigate, the socialist public prosecutor has sent all the papers, documents and evidence that he has to be studied by the public prosecutor so he can complete the investigation.

12547

CSO: 4504/389

EGYPT

PLAN TO EMPLOY RETURNING EXPATRIATES PROPOSED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Jun 85 p 8

[Article by Haytham Sa'd-al-Din]

[Text] Agreement has been reached between Egypt and the International Labour Organization on the organization's help in setting up a plan to employ Egyptian workers upon their return to the country in anticipation of a possible drop in the demand for Egyptian labor, on condition that this plan be included in the United Nation's aid program to Egypt over the next 2 years.

Mr Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, minister of labour and president of the workers' union, said following his return from Geneva after attending some of the workings of the 71st session of the International Labour conference, that the agreement had been reached during meetings he had had with Mr Francis Blanchard the director general of the International Labour Organization, on finding ways of providing the financing needed to implement the plan to analyze data on the labor market.

In his capacity as president of the workers' union, the minister held a number of meetings with heads and leaders of workers' unions from the Sudan, Somalia, North Yemen, Jordan, the United States of America, Turkey and Yugoslavia. These meetings concentrated on areas pertaining to developing and strengthening bilateral cooperation ties in a general sense between the Egyptian trade union movement and the trade union movements in these countries.

He also discussed with representatives of the Arab labor organizations labor developments and situations on the Arab labor scene, and ways of bringing back unity and Arab labor solidarity by turning the course of the international union of Arab trade unions away from the direction taken as a result of Syrian and Libyan maneuvers and dominance.

12547

CSO: 4504/389

EGYPT

ANNUAL REPORT ON CRIME STATISTICS ISSUED

Cairo AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 18 Jun 85 p 8

[Article by Hasan Abu-al-'Aynayn]

[Text] The annual report on the state of public security in Egypt confirmed that there has been a slight numerical increase in certain types of crimes during the past year. Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, director of public security, announced that what was reassuring was that the security organs had been able to solve almost all of the crimes, since the percentage of those solved was about 91 percent of the misdemeanors and 93 percent of the serious felonies. They had also been able to confiscate 9,550 arms pieces from the culprits, and peace had been made between adversaries in 348 cases.

During a press conference which he attended as a representative of Major Generals Fawzi 'Abd-al-Wahhab and Mamduh Bar'i and Brig Gen Hasan Bilal, director of criminal control, the director of public security said that the total number of felonies during the past year rose to 1,808 compared to 1,635 during the previous year, an increase of 173, or 11 percent.

As for crimes in general, their number reached 16,479 compared to 16,023, an increase of 456, or 3 percent. He explained that the prompt and positive movement and presence of security forces had played an important role in reducing the crime statistics of certain serious misdemeanors such as the misdemeanor of residential and business burglary and other thefts.

The report indicated that murder felonies had increased by 8 percent, blows resulting in death by 5 percent, blows resulting in maiming by 14 percent, rape 19 percent, intimidation 8 percent, thefts 27 percent, arson 44 percent, embezzlement 2 percent, falsification of documents 1 percent, and endangering and wrecking means of transportation did not increase or decrease, since the number of crimes in both 84 and the previous year was 3.

There was a decrease of 33 percent in kidnapping crimes, and 100 percent in the crime of livestock poisoning, since there was nothing compared to a single crime in 1983, and bribery decreased by 10 percent, and resisting the authorities and illegal assembly by 52 percent.

Maj Gen 'Adb-al-Halim Musa announced that the volume of residential burglaries was about 2,243 during the past year compared to 2,317, a decrease in the amount of 829 incidents or 37 percent [as published]. As for businesses, the number was 1,007 crimes compared to 1,019, a drop of 12, or 1 percent, while livestock theft rose by 34 percent, pickpocketing by 23 percent, and automobile theft by 23 percent.

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CSO: 4504/389

EGYPT

BRIEFS

LAW ON CAR DECAL REMOVAL--The traffic law concerning the removal of stickers, signs, and drawings from vehicles came into force today. Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi said compliance with the law has proceeded without violations, thus showing the people's response to the law is in good faith. [Text] [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Jul 85 NC]

NEW PAPER TO PUBLISH--A shareholding company is being formed in order to publish a weekly to be called YULYU [JULY]. The paper's principal concern will be to defend the July revolution and reply to the increasing attacks that aim at "going back to the era of the rules of pashas." The founders have chosen 'Abdallah Imam, the author of the largest number of books on Nasirism, as chief editor. [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Jul 85 p 1 NC]

DRIP IRRIGATION COMPUTERIZED--The most advanced technological methods will be applied in the implementation of the drip system in Noweiba farm, through the use of a computer, said the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Supervisor on the farm, Dr Nasef Nada. The cost of the computer will be 100,000 dollars and it is due to be operational before the end of the present year. He pointed out that the application of this system will save great amounts of water and will provide the plant with the nutritive elements required. The system will also save labour and will lead to an increase in production, Dr Nada pointed out. [Text] [Cairo EGYPTIAN MAIL in English 15 Jun 85 p 2]

CSO: 4500/160

LIBYA

UK PAPER SAYS U.S. TO ATTACK LEBANON, IRAN 'IN A FEW DAYS'

LD031458 Tripoli JANA English 1405 GMT 3 Jul 85

[JANA headline: "Reagan Poised To Take Revenge"]

[Text] London, Shawal 16, 3 Jul, JAMAHIRIYA NEW AGENCY--The British DAILY MIRROR newspaper said senior American officials in Washington hoped Washington to launch attacks in a few days against those they called hijackers and cooperated [word indistinct] them. [sentence as received]

The paper said America will hit Lebanese and Iranian targets as part of a swift military operation to be carried out by the Sixth Fleet assembled off the Lebanese coast. As his [word indistinct] step, Reagan ordered American airlines not to use Beirut Airport and barred the Lebanese Middle East Airways from landing in the U.S.

The paper mocked President Reagan and said when he saw a violent film about a war veteran who returns to the jungles of Southeast Asia to seek revenge from the Vietnamese defeated America, he said "next time this happens I will know just what to do" to those who stand against the American interests.

It seems the lesson Reagan learned after seeing the film is to launch an armed aggression against Lebanon and Iran without taking into account what happened to America at the hands of the daring popular resistance in Vietnam and the Lebanese resistance in (?Lebanon) and the Libyan Arab people in Darnah and the (?determination) of the peoples of the world to face the American terrorism, arrogance and madness.

CSO: 4500/153

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI CANDIDACY AS OAU HEAD NOT CONFIRMED

EA152126 Dakar PANA in French 1552 GMT 15 Jul 85

[Text] Addis Ababa, 15 Jul (PANA)--Miftah Mahdi, the head of the Libyan delegation to the 42d ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers currently meeting in Addis Ababa in preparation for the 21st African summit, on Monday refused to either confirm or reject rumors circulating at the conference according to which Libya would be candidate for the next presidency of the Pan-African organization. In an interview with PANA, Mr Madhi thought that any statement on the matter would be premature. He added: We will make a statement at the right moment, when the matter arises.

Nevertheless the PANA agency has learned from generally well-informed sources that Libya is currently undertaking contacts with various delegations in Addis Ababa to evaluate the chances of a possible candidature of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to the OAU presidency. It is also indicated from the same source that the participation of the head of the Libyan revolution to the 21st summit which is due to open on next Thursday, will depend on the results of the soundings on the chances of his election.

It is worth recalling that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi contested the post in view at the 19th OAU cummit in 1983, which failed due to the Saharan, and Chadian problems. Nevertheless, President Diouf of Senegal, who has sought the presidency since the last OAU summit is the only one on the list and the one favored by the observers for the succession to the outgoing chairman, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

CSO: 4500/155

LIBYA

FINNS ACTIVE IN MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR LIBYA

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ZEITUNG/BLICK DURCH DIE WIRTSCHAFT in German
2 Apr 85 p 2

[Text] In recent days, Finnish enterprises managed to get a number of significant orders in Africa, especially in the north of the continent, which are connected with the delivery and installation of investment goods and equipment. Finnish engineering consulting firms and construction businesses also succeeded in being included in the execution of development projects. Finnish involvement is primarily in Libya and Egypt, but Finnish enterprises have also become active in Tunisia and Algeria as well as other African countries.

The most significant project in Libya presently executed by Finnish firms is the construction of a large educational center in Beni Walid. In the future, experts for industry and administration are to be trained there. The construction order for the educational center, valued at \$166 million, was awarded to the Finnish company, Perusyhtymä. In June 1985, the firm was also awarded maintenance and servicing of the first development stage of the educational center.

Recently, the firm of Vesi-Pekka Oy, Helsinki, received orders in Libya to build a tuna cannery in Zliten in the amount of 35 million markkas, and two water towers in Misurata (8 million markkas). In the past year, it also closed deals for port construction work in Zweitina (61 million markkas), dredging work in the port of Bengasi (12 million markkas), and repair work of installations of the mineral oil industry (4 million markkas).

The Puolimatka International company was awarded an order by Libya in the amount of 60 million markkas for construction of an office complex for a corporation of the mineral oil industry. Previously it had been charged with the construction of apartments in Tripoli (31 million markkas). The OMP-group took on construction of 15 water containers in the amount of 90 million markkas. In 1984, the firm of Yleinen Insinööri (YIT), Helsinki, concluded maintenance work at the Tripoli airport (4 million markkas). The Finnish firm Valio constructed in Al Beida a complete trunk dairy, the value of which came to \$20 million. It also took on the training of specialized personnel. The dairy produces fresh milk, long-lasting milk, yogurt and cheese.

Finnish engineering consulting firms also managed to get significant orders in Libya. Devecon, a joint enterprise of the four firms CJN, Ekono, Soil & Water, and Liikennetnikka, was awarded the planning and consulting work for the new town of Ras Lanuf, which is later to accommodate about 40,000 workers and their families of the industrial site. It also assumed preparation of a general traffic plan for Tripoli and consulting tasks for the major highway Sabrata-Ras Jedir.

The Kimmene-Stroemberg Oy company recently obtained in Egypt an order for delivery of large transformers in the amount of 30 million markkas. Funds from Finnish development aid and export credits are to be made available to finance the order. Delivery and installation of the transformers will be carried out in 1985-1986. The Nokia Engineering firm, Helsinki, was entrusted in Egypt with the supervision of a project connected with electrification of 350 villages. This will bring more than 500,000 people into the power supply network. The enterprise also built a testing station for desalinization of sea water in the Suez power plant and repaired and computerized the power supply grid in the west of Cairo. Egypt awarded to the Raumo-Repola company an order for rock-crushing installations and railroad cranes.

Finnish construction firms are also involved in Egypt. Hartela Contractors received orders in the amount of 129 million markkas for the construction of three vacation villages in Ismailia and in the area of Alexandria. Before that, they had built in Cairo the Marriott Omar Khayyam Hotel and the Sphinx Holiday Inn. The firm of Vesta Oy, Helsinki, took on construction of a sewage treatment plant at Kafr el Dawar in the Nile Delta. Plancenter and Finnplanco are among the Finnish engineering consulting firms working in Egypt. Plancenter was included in several small projects, among them the management of a hospital. Finnplanco prepared a study on the development of tourism in the region of El Fayum.

In Tunisia, the Finnish Tamro corporation, jointly with two Arab investment banks and Tunisian enterprises, is constructing in Grombalia, about 30 km from Tunis, a factory for the production of non-sterile, disposable products of fibrous web for use in hospitals. The investment cost for the factory, which is to start production at the turn of the year 1985/86, is listed as \$5 million. The Tamro corporation which is equipping the plant contributes one-third of the financing. In Algeria, Kemira Oy was included in the modernization of three chemical works in Annaba which produce sulfuric and phosphoric acid and various fertilizers.

In the West African region, Outokumpu Oy recently was awarded an order in Mauritania in the amount of roughly \$20 million for delivery of equipment and storage installations for the Samin copper mine in Akjoujt, located about 260 km northeast of the capital city Nouakchott. The order provides particularly for a crushing plant and a concentration plant.

In February 1985 the Lemminkainen Oy company, Helsinki, was awarded the construction of the first factory for hollow glassware in Liberia. The order is valued at 20 million markkas. The Finnish enterprise, together with a U.S.

firm, had previously carried out the expansion of the Robertsfield airport near Monrovia. It also repaired the Liberian iron ore mine and built a water treatment plant with a daily capacity of 40,000 cubic meters.

The French subsidiary of the engineering consulting firm Jaako Poyry International Oy, Helsinki, in the People's Republic of the Congo was included in the Ouessou wood processing project for which the World Bank granted a loan of \$12 million. This project of the Societe Congolaise des Bois de Ouessou (SCBO), Brazzaville, involves construction and operation of a saw mill and chip board factory which is to be completed in mid-1986. Jaako Poyry International Oy is also involved in a project of the wood processing industry in Tanzania. It concerns the repair and expansion of the wood complex of Tembo Chipboards Ltd at the foot of the Usambara mountains. The Finnish International Development Agency (Finnida) assumed financing for the planning and construction supervision as well as training measures. The FRG agreed to subsidize this project with DM 12 million.

In Ethiopia, Finnagro, a consortium of four Finnish firms including the aforementioned Valio enterprise, is reorganizing the milk collection and distribution system in the capital, Addis Ababa. The Finnish construction firm Naaraharju obtained an order valued at 22 million markkas to build a congress hall in Addis Ababa.

In Kenya, Lemminkainen Oy, already mentioned above, was entrusted with repairing a 137 km long section of a national highway. The Kenyan-Finnish joint enterprise, Kefinco, is active in Kenya in the field of water management. By building pump wells, it has contributed since 1981 to supplying water to the Kenyan population in rural areas. In Mozambique a team of Finnish experts received the order for reorganizing and improving the container traffic in the port of Nacala, the most important seaport for the inland country of Malawi. This project is being financed by the Finnish government.

Finland grants a significant amount of development aid which, in 1985, comes to 1.32 billion markkas or 0.4 percent of the gross domestic product. Of this amount, 537.7 million markkas constitute multilateral development assistance, and 786.3 million markkas are direct allocations. For 1986, a further increase of total development aid to about 1.6 billion markkas is planned. The most important recipient countries will be Egypt, Kenya, Zambia, Sri Lanka and Tanzania. In 1985, Tanzania holds first place with 115 million markkas of development aid. It was learned recently that Finland intends to join the aid fund for Africa sponsored by the World Bank and will make 78.3 million markkas available for this purpose.

9917

CSO: 4620/41

LIBYA

BRIEFS

FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES FORMATION PLANNED--Tripoli, Shawal 17, 4 Jul , JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY--The office of friendship societies in the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau took the steps needed to form friendship societies in Denmark, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Brazil, Spain, Romania and People's Congo. The office sources said that shortly these societies and other societies will be announced in accordance with the decisions of the basic people's congresses with regards to the development of Libyan Arab people's relations with other peoples directly. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1816 GMT 4 Jul 85 LD]

CSO: 4500/153

MOROCCO

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH ROMANIA--In Bucharest, Mr Kabbaj, the minister of equipment and cadre training accompanied by the Romanian foreign minister, Stefan Andrei presided over the ceremonies of concluding the work of the third session of the Moroccan-Romanian governmental committee. The two ministers signed the minutes of a cooperation agreement between Morocco and Romania in the medical, industrial, scientific, cultural, energy, mineral, and trade exchanges field. Mr Kabbaj has been received by the Romanian minister of education and discussed with him the means to consolidate the cultural relations between the two countries. [Text] [Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Jun 85 LD]

CSO: 4519/151

SUDAN

SUNA INTERVIEWS U.S. AMBASSADOR IN KHARTOUM

JN 131843 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1735 GMT 13 Jul 85

/Text/ Khartoum, 13 Jul (SUNA)--In a statement to SUNA about reports that the United States played a role in the evacuation of the Falashas to Israel, U.S. Ambassador Hume Alexander Horan said: We do not comment on this issue because it is an internal Sudanese affair and the United States does not interfere in Sudan's internal affairs. We believe that there are instigative elements seeking to disrupt the situation.

Regarding the U.S. administration's opinion of the cooperation protocol signed between Sudan and Libya, the U.S. ambassador said: This protocol is not clear. Like all of Sudan's friends, we are curious about this protocol and would like to know more about its contents and dimensions.

He affirmed the United States' commitment to its friendship with Sudan and said this friendship cannot be shaken. He explained that the issue of freezing aid to Sudan is absolutely out of the question. He said: It is well known that relations between the United States and Libya are strained.

In response to a SUNA question as to whether U.S. aid to Sudan during the previous period was aimed at exerting pressure on Sudanese politics, the U.S. ambassador said that relations between the United States and Sudan are cordial and open to everyone. He said that Sudan currently needs food supplies and technology as a result of the drought. He also said that Sudan's friends in the Free World rushed to assist it in time of need. He asked: Was all this done in order to impose a certain policy on Sudan? He said: We appreciate Sudan and the Sudanese people and admire their generous hospitality for the refugees. I do not believe that Sudan's friends in Europe and the United States rushed to assist it in order to impose a certain policy on it because there is something called friendship.

The U.S. ambassador denied any U.S. military presence in Sudan. He explained that the military cooperation between the United States and Sudan is known and public and deals with training and the maintenance of U.S. helicopters, as well as military, financial and food cooperation programs. Regarding an increase in U.S. aid to Sudan, he said that U.S. aid to Sudan for the year ending in September will reach \$400-500 million. He said that all of Sudan's friends agree on the need to cooperate with Sudan to help it overcome its economic crisis.

CSO: 4500/156

SUDAN

RADIO SPLA: POLITICAL OFFICERS URGED 'TO REDOUBLE' EFFORT

EA151832 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Jul 85

/Text/ Major Alfred Lado Gore, the head of Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement /SPLA-SPLM/ Political Orientation Department, made another statement to a Radio SPLA correspondent this morning. According to the correspondent the statement contains an appeal by Maj Lado Gore to all SPLA political officers with the various battalions to redouble their efforts in raising the levels of political and ideological consciousness of SPLA's combatants and the population among whom they live so as to cement the movements permanent relations with the people.

The correspondent went on to say that Maj Lado Gore had described as the political officers vital responsibility the task of providing to the masses simple and straightforward answers and explanations to the questions of why they are fighting, whom they are fighting, and what they should expect to be done after liberation. The war can be won when the people have a full and proper understanding of these issues Lado Gore said. He further emphasized that the political officers should carefully discuss and analyze the speeches of the SPLA-SPLM leader, Col Dr John Garang de Mabior, besides the statements made by other leaders of the movement and explain these to the citizens because such statements he said provide guidance and direction for the cause of our revolutionary armed struggle against our class enemies, he added.

Maj Lado Gore concluded his appeal to political officers by cautioning them against an attitude of complacency and indulgence in tribalism, sectionalism, regionalism and other similarly harmful practices. He urged them to strive to forge a strong unity among the people and rally them firmly behind the movements revolutionary leadership.

CSO: 4500/156

SUDAN

SPLA CARRIES FORMER GARRISON COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY

EA131933 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 13 Jul 85

/Maj Martin Manyiel (Ayuwal) commentary: "The Murky Clouds of Uncertainty That Overhang the Political Scene in Sudan"; presented by (Nyal Ding Nyal)/

/Text/ The current trend of events in Khartoum is being overshadowed by dark clouds of uncertainty, and to whom exactly the people's stolen power now belongs is not clear. The hectic scramble by the different forces on the Sudanese political scene for control of the trend of these events is the unassailable proof that nobody in Khartoum is actually in charge. Neither Siwar-al-Dhahab's military regime nor al-Jazuli Daf'Allah's rubberstamp cabinet can claim much of an influence on political affairs of the country at the moment.

The cabinet has been stripped of its traditional executive powers by the military government which, through usurpation of the powers incidental to the Foreign Ministry, has conducted a number of foreign tours in the vain attempt to find a solution to what it regards as a southern problem. Besides, the military government has been quite keen to undertake these foreign trips with a view to cleaning its image, especially since most of its members, including Siwar al-Dhahab of course, were part and parcel of Numayri's infamous regime. In fact Siwar al-Dhahab has succeeded in concealing his true self by maintaining a low profile during Numayri's 1 May regime.

By posing as a pro-Western moderate and a devout Muslim, Siwar-al-Dhahab appealed very much to Numayri's liking. And since Numayri, who had been once a staunch believer in secular government had suddenly turned almost a Muslim fundamentalist, he played right into the hands of Siwar-al-Dhahab to whom he handed the crucial defense portfolio which he had never dreamt of parting with. This portfolio actually paved Siwar al-Dhahab's way to the presidency of the present Interim Military Council.

The question that poses itself now is: Did Siwar al-Dhahab from the very beginning desire power for himself or did circumstances and ambitions of some elements, like Uthman 'Abdallah, his war minister, play the crucial role in steering him to steal the people's power? That power which the 15 generals have denied its rightful owners for the past 16 years.

What lessons have the Sudanese masses learnt from the bitter experience of Numayri's 16 years of dictatorship? Is another power transfer from Siwar-al-Dhahab to his defense minister, Maj Gen 'Uthman 'Abdallah, to be expected? Will the Sudanese masses have the patience to endure a second May system. These few questions clearly indicate the extent and magnitude of the political crisis the country undergoes as the result of the usurpation of the people's power without a program with which to tackle their problems.

The extensive tours frequently made by the Junta's members to foreign capitals and the abrupt visits to Sudan by heads of government and state of various countries without prior preparations are all indications of the intense struggle for control and influence over Sudan that is now raging. The country has virtually become a commodity thrown up for sale in the open market to be given to whoever can pay the highest price obtainable. The status of the Sudan as a sovereign independence state is now at stake.

The military junta, which all of a sudden stepped into Numayri's place, naturally found itself unprepared to offer the people anything, although the people hardly need their assistance in administering their own affairs. Therefore, the alternative was to resort to opportunism of the worst kind by trying to appease everybody who has an interest in the Sudan even if that means compromising the interests of the Sudanese masses themselves.

The regime's strongmen, 'Uthman Abdallah and Fadlallah Burma Nasir are now associated most in the minds of people with the regime's frequent trips to foreign capitals, which have become reminiscent of Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy. The journey undertaken by the two to specific African capitals were aimed at isolating the SPLA-SPLM, the vanguard of the Sudanese masses revolution. These visits, however, in the view of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement /SPLA-SPLM/ are absolutely unnecessary because as the movement's leader Col Dr John Garang de Mabior has stressed on several occasions, the problems of Sudan are peculiar to Sudan and the Sudanese and, therefore, the appropriate solutions to these lie inside the Sudan with the Sudanese themselves and not in foreign capitals. But the junta has no faith in itself and refuses to be realistic and hence still strongly believes just like its predecessor, that the solutions to the problems of Sudan are well beyond the reach of the parties concerned.

The military regime intends to use as a trump card in clinging on to power the isolation of the SPLA-SPLM, through its current diplomatic offensive after it has become quite clear, through Numayri's fate, that a military option is certainly too hazardous and therefore self-defeating. But if the regime believes that its moves against the SPLA-SPLM on the diplomatic front are going to bear any fruit, then it must be daydreaming because the movement is sustained and strengthened by the indomitable will of the Sudanese masses.

The glorious revolutionary march of the Sudanese nation may be impeded by such setbacks as the theft of the people's power on 6th April but its ultimate triumph is inevitable. If the junta is serious, then let it address itself to the real problems of Sudan to which the SPLA-SPLM has alerted all persons who are interested in the country's welfare. However, since the military government

is only obsessed with how to remain in power, it will always evade truth and consequently will do the country no good. The SPLA-SPLM has correctly diagnosed the problems of the Sudan and therefore to find a durable solution to these problems. The role of the movement in prescribing and administering the best treatment for the country's chronic diseases can never be dismissed or taken lightly. The SPLA-SPLM is certain that the fate of the current military regime will not be any different from that of its grand master, Ja'far Numayri who went away in absolute disgrace. Any other exploitative clique government that may subsequently try its luck with power in Khartoum is also going to end the same way.

The traditional and sectarian based political parties have their own share of troubles as well. The 1 May system of Ja'far Numayri has inflicted on them as much harm as it did on the overwhelming majority of the neglected Sudanese masses. Before the 1 May era most of these parties enjoyed the Islamic spectrum of the Sudan. Now these parties have to labor very hard in order to restore some of their support which the 1 May system eroded by isolated the members of these religious sects from their organizational structures and frameworks. These parties are now back to their old gangs of the politics of opportunism. Since they lack popular backing, they have been oscillating between the ruling military regime and the board Sudanese masses. For instance, the Ummah party and the Dup, which remain nominally a party of the National Alliance, have in actual fact switched sides.

In a recent joint statement, the two parties clearly stated their view that the military government should not give up any legislative powers to the Council of Ministers. In view of this it would hardly be surprising if they went as far as supporting the stay in power by the generals for an indefinite period of time, rather than hand over power to the people as promised next April. The question to be asked is: why should the two political parties support the Junta's continuation in power?" Does it mean that these parties in particular have a special liking for the military regime? The situation prevailing now is not very different from that of 1964 after the fall of Abbud. These two parties have lost ground and their fishing in troubled waters has left them with nothing other than to support the junta in order to buy more time for themselves at the expense of the masses who destroyed the 1 May regime.

What is the function of Dr Jazuli's cabinet compared to that of Sirr al-Khatim in 1964? In fact, the gap between the two is very wide. Whereas in 1964, after the fall of the military, a civilian government took over to prepare for the restoration of democracy. In the present situation, a general has simply replaced another general, ostensibly to prepare for civilian rule. The Council of Ministers is an economic burden on Sudan's crippled economy which, due to Siwar al-Dhahab and his 14 generals under the 1 May system, has become what it is now.

Instead of maintaining the expensive cabinet of a Jazuli Daf'allah, which in fact has no powers, it would be better to save some money that could be devoted to alleviating the suffering of the famine-stricken masses in Darfur and northern Kurdufan. It is difficult to know exactly who is the actual minister for foreign affairs in Sudan. Both Ibrahim Taha Ayyub and Fadlallah Burma Nasir seem to be

handling the job. This conflict of authority that characterized Numayri's rule was designed primarily to wet the appetite of Sudanese intellectuals for power in the 1 May system and thereby create more opportunism to divert away attention from the real issues facing the country.

There is a power vacuum in the Sudan. The struggle for power between the Interim Military Council and the Council of Ministers, which shows no sign of being resolved soon enough, clearly shows this. The sharp conflict between the Military Council and the Alliance of Trade Unions on the one hand indicates that the Military Council is not in full control.

In his speech of 26 and 27 May 1985 the SPLA-SPLM leader Col Dr John Garang de Mobior made an important point when he remarked that even if the SPLA-SPLM were prepared to talk with the present rulers, there would be nobody to talk to simply because no one in Khartoum could qualify to be the government.

The minister of defense, Maj Gen 'Uthman 'Abdallah, wrote a letter to the SPLA-SPLM leader and so did the prime minister, Dr Al-Jazuli Daf'allah. However, none of these letters in any way reflected the official government position. So now if we wanted to talk, to whom should we address ourselves? To 'Uthman 'Abdallah or to al-Jazuli Daf'allah? We in the SPLA believe that the situation in the Sudan is not conducive to any dialogue as long as the murky clouds of confusion and uncertainty overhang the political scene in the country. These clouds, however, could be dispersed if the Junta goes and power is handed over to the people. It is only within the context of such a new system that an honest and realistic approach to the solution of Sudan's problems will be adopted and the full participation of the SPLA-SPLM in the process ensured.

CSO: 4500/156

SUDAN

REBELS CITE SUCCESSES IN SOUTHER KURDUFAN

EA021723 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 Jul 85

/Excerpts/ Radio SPLA correspondent assigned to tiger, timsah /crocodile/ and oil battalions under the command of Maj Paul Dor Lampou has sent in the details of the successful rescue campaign launched earlier by SPLA forces in southern Kurdufan. It is to be recalled that the operation which had been carried out against government troops with the purpose of rescuing the local population from the atrocities of these troops started with the attack on Talawdi military garrison by SPLA units under the command of 1st Lt (Rahman Rahumah 'Abdu).

According to the information now available that attack, in which the commander of Talawdi garrison was killed, was followed by a series of swift surprise attacks that caught the enemy off guard. As a result the enemy have sustained heavy casualties in both personnel and materials. The first attack in the wake of the Talawdi operations was jointly led by 1st Lt (Rahman Rahumah Abdu) and 1st Lt (Simon Manyang Khayr), against the government troops stationed at (Partur) in southern Kurdufan. In these operations 75 enemy soldiers were killed, while 102 were injured. A Magirus truck with the registration plate number 7802 and an armored personnel carrier, apc, with the number 1728 were also destroyed. In addition to that one rp 42 machinegun, three d3 rifles and three boxes of ammunition including a radio 77 set were captured intact.

The second attack was directed against a place called Guardud. In the course of these operations our correspondent says that a complete enemy platoon was wiped out by SPLA forces. Material losses included destruction of another magirus truck bearing the registration number of 1365, a landrover with the number 7163 besides a tractor that belongs to government troops in the area.

Our correspondent has also reported that SPLA troops that conducted the operations occupied the ammunition and rations store and seized an assortment of arms that included two RP 42 machineguns, 18 d3 rifles and six Akm rifles.

On the 7th of June 1985 an enemy force moving between Talawdi and Gardud was ambushed by SPLA troops under the command of 1st Lt (Simon Manyang Khayr). The enemy forces which were about a company strong was being led by Maj 'Umar Muhammad al-Shaykh, 1st Lt 'Umar Hasan 'Abdullah and Lt 'Isam al-din al-Tahir.

In this operation Maj 'Umar Muhammad al-Shaykh, the commander of the enemy company was wounded, meanwhile first Lt 'Umar Hasan 'Abddullah is said to have been among the 78 government soldiers who lost their lives in the ambush. As for Lt 'Isam al-Din al-Tahir, our correspondent says that he last been captured along with six other soldiers all of whom are now in SPLA hands.

Our correspondent adds that two other Magirus trucks were also destroyed in the attack, and a tractor ingood working condition seized. Other military hardware captured were 42 G3, and AKM rifles, four rp 42 machineguns, and one browning heavy machinegun.

The last operation in the series came on the 25 June 1985. It was launched by SPLA forces under the command of 1st Lt (Simon Manyang Khayr) against enemy troops in (Ganaya) area. In this attack 51 enemy soldiers were killed and 91 wounded. (Taj-al-Din Adam), sargeant-major whose military number is 401130, is reported to have been captured. According to our correspondent a magirus truck with the registration plate number 7708 was completely demolished besides a lorry with the number 3200.

CSO: 4500/156

SUDAN

BRIEFS

MINING OF GOVERNMENT TRUCK--An enemy six-wheeled Magirus truck was blown up by a land mine laid by Sudanese People's Liberation Army /SPLA/ forces on the morning of 9 July 1985. According to a Radio SPLA correspondent, who reported the incident, the truck, which carried the registration plate number 3718, was part of a convoy that was travelling from Weil to Nyamlell in the northern part of Bahr al-Ghazal administrative area. All those on board the truck are reported killed. The demolition team of Rhino Battalion, which laid the mine, had been accompanied in its mission by a protective force under the command of 1st Lt Lino Longar and Lt Peter Maduok. /Text/ /((Clandestine)) Radio the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 Jul 85/

HEAVY GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES REPORTED--Reports reaching SPLA from its correspondent attached to Rhino Battalion say that a successful attack on (Wad Wil) in which was personally led by the Rhino Battalion Cdr Lt-Col PSC Martin Makur Aleo, has left the area firmly under SPLA control. According to our correspondent, the attack which was launched on the dawn of 8th (eighth) July at (Wad Wil) near Aweil in the northern part of Bahr el Gazal Administrative Area resulted in the enemy sustained heavy casualties and widespread devastation to its facilities in the area. Five policemen were taken captive by SPLA forces and five rifles in good condition were seized. Our correspondent added that the remaining survivors fled the area when most of the stores and buildings were set ablaze following heavy and concentrated shelling from the SPLA mortar unit participating in the attack. First Lt George (Kwach), Lt (Garen Arok), Lt (Deng dau), Lt David (Majung Mach) and (Deng Aler) and (Kwol Mayan) from the militia in the area took part in the operation, the correspondent concluded. Radio SPLA will provide more details of these operations as soon as they become available. /Text/ /((Clandestine)) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Jul 85/

GOVERNMENT'S DISARMING SOLDIERS REPORTED--Radio SPLA has learned from reliable sources that the military government of the generals has begun panicking out of fear that large numbers of soldiers in the armed forces from Bahr al-Ghazal and Upper Nile and western Sudan may continue defecting to the SPLA. According to these sources the military regime has already started taking measures aimed at disarming these soldiers from Upper Nile and Bahr al-Ghazal. Similar action with regard to armed forces members from western Sudan are being seriously contemplated, these sources revealed. The official SPLA/SPLM spokesman commenting on these alarming developments has told Radio SPLA that such a move on the part

of the generals was to be expected. Since the only way to overcome their lack of support in the armed forces is to resort to the 1 May tactics of mass purges, arrests and disarming of patriotic elements in the army. /Text/ /((Clandestine)) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 Jul 85/

FIRE ON PLANE DENIED--Abu Dhabi, 10 Jul (WAKH)--The Sudanese airlines office in Abu Dhabi has denied that one of the engines of a Sudanese plane caught fire during a flight the day before yesterday /as received/ while it was making a routine trip from Abu Dhabi to Khartoum. Muhammadi Hasan Adam, the company's acting regional director for the Gulf region, said that the alarm system in the cabin gave an indication that there was a fire in engine No 3 which caused the pilot to operate the automatic extinguishers inside the engine and to land at the nearest airport. In a statement published today in Abu Dhabi by the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, Muhammadi said that following the landing of the plane at Doha Airport, it was discovered that there was no trace of fire and the only problem was to replace the used extinguishers. After the extinguishers were installed and the engines checked, the plane resumed its flight. /Text/ /Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 10 Jul 85/

FIRE DESTROYS RAILWAY WAGONS--'Atbarah, 14 Jul (SUNA)--Nineteen railway wagons were completely destroyed when fire broke out at a workshop here last Thursday. The fire which erupted at the carpenters workshop at the railways corporation, has also partially damaged four other wagons, two warehouses and some railines inside the workshop. The glaze was put down after a 3-hour battle by firemen, railways police and the people's armed forces. Investigations were currently underway to find out the causes of the fire. /Text/ /Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 14 Jul 85/

PARTY NEWSPAPERS OBTAIN LICENSES--Khartoum, 12 Jul (SUNA)--The minister of culture and information endorsed the recommendation by the committee on press and information to grant licenses to nine party newspapers here yesterday. The minister of culture and information recently granted licenses to the AL-MIAYDAN and AL-RAYAH papers. Thus, the following party newspapers have obtained licenses: SAWT AL-SUDAN, AL-QABAS, SAWT AL-UMMAH, AL-YAQZAH, AL-HADAF, AL-BADIL, AL-ITTIHADI, AL-TAJAMMU', and AL-MUNADIL, in addition to the two mentioned above. /Text/ /Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 12 Jul 85/

ATTACK ON AKOBO GARRISON--Akobo Military Garrison has lost nine soldiers through the raid conducted on the garrison on 26 June 1985 by the combined forces of SPLA commandoes and units of Jamus /buffalo/ Battalion under the commander of Lt Matthew (Ujwak Lor). The raids which had been conducted in two successive phases in the early hours of 26 June 1985 claimed the lives of a first lieutenant, a sergeant major, a corporal, and an army driver on the government side. According to our correspondent who supplied Radio SPLA with the details of these operations, four enemy foxholes together with their armaments were destroyed, besides two buildings. Of the nine enemy soldiers who lost their lives in the course of the operation, five were killed when a Magirus truck that was carrying them inside the army headquarters was hit by a shell. The enemy's casualties also consisted of three wounded soldiers, who included a sergeant major by the name of (Kachuong) Malwal. Casualties on the SPLA side were reported to have been slight and insignificant. /Excerpts/ /((Clandestine)) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 1 Jul 85/

ISRAEL

E. JERUSALEM PAPER POLL ON JORDAN, PLO, ISRAEL

TA070959 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Jul 85 p 4

[Text] At the end of last week the paper AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI, which is published in East Jerusalem, publicized a public opinion poll on the Palestinian issue, the findings of which may surprise a broad section of the Israeli public.

Within the framework of the poll, 1,257 people were interviewed, from all classes of the West Bank population: merchants, workers, clerks, and public figures. The poll's findings are as follows:

To the question of whether Palestinians should recognize UN Resolution 242, on condition that Israel also recognize the Palestinian nation's right to self-determination, 70.2 percent answered yes.

An increase in the Palestinian dialogue with what they call the "Israeli forces of peace" was favored by 78.5 percent.

The question of whether the link between the Palestinians and Jordan should be reinforced was answered in the affirmative by 73.4 percent.

A reinforcement of the dialogue between the United States and the Palestinians was favored by 73.1 percent.

In reaction, people from the territories said the findings of the poll indicate the revulsion of the residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with the increasing militancy of the leftist organizations, as well as their support for the moderate line followed by King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat.

CSO: 4400/190

1 August 1985

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

SRI LANKA TRADE BOYCOTT CANCELED--Sri Lanka has called off the boycott on trade with Israel. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that a presidential edict to that effect was issued this evening in the capital of Colombo. As Israel and Sri Lanka have grown closer, Saudi Arabia has cancelled its plan to set up an embassy in Colombo, and the PLO has recalled a senior representative, leaving in Sri Lanka only a low-level representative instead. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 3 Jul 85]

AIDS AMONG HEMOPHILIACS--Out of a total of 300 hemophiliac patients in Israel, 5--some of them young--contracted AIDS and 3 died of the disease after having received blood transfusions to treat their condition. This is among the highest average rates in the world and is almost double that of the United States. [Excerpt] [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Jun 85 p 10]

ARAB TOURISM STATISTICS--More than 10 percent of tourists coming to Israel last year arrived by way of Arab countries. This is stated in the annual report to the Knesset of Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir. The report says 1,259,000 tourists visited Israel in 1984, with 129,000 of them arriving overland from Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. His number does not include air passengers arriving from Cairo. Of the overland tourists, 54,000 arrived from Jordan via the Allenby Bridge. This number refers only to western tourists, most of whom flew to Amman and then crossed over for a visit to Israel. For most of these travellers, the low fares offered by Jordan's Alia Airlines were the principle reason for choosing this means of entry. There were 42,000 overland arrivals from Egypt, 13 percent more than in 1983. This figure, too, refers to Westerners, but in contrast with those coming from Jordan, the Egyptian portion of their tour was an important segment of their itinerary. Another 33,000 tourists were recorded as having entered from Lebanon. It may be assumed that this source of tourism has dried up. [By Hayim Shapiro] [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jul 85 p 3]

ENGLISH TV NEWS--English-language newscasts on Israel Television are expected to be inaugurated by mid-September, acting ITV director Yosef Bar-El this week told THE JERUSALEM POST. He added that if he does not succeed in integrating a nightly

English-language newscast into the programme schedule, he will at least arrange for a simultaneous translation of Mabat news on Voice of Israel radio. Bar-El has set a mid-September deadline for launching newscasts in English, because that is when his term expires. Mindful of the effectiveness of Jordan Television's 10 p.m. news in English, Bar-El wishes to broadcast in English on Israel TV at the same time. [By Greer Fay Cashman] [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jul 85 p 3]

IDF APPOINTMENT--Colonel Efrayim Sene will be appointed head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria on 5 July replacing Colonel Freddie Zakh who will be appointed to a senior post in the IDF. [Excerpt] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jul 85 p 3 TA]

IMMIGRANTS, VISITORS FROM LEBANON--A total of 61 Jews have come to live in Israel from Lebanon during the last 2 years, according to figures issued by Israel's Ministry of the Interior. The ministry also issued entry visas to 94 Lebanese citizens in order to permit them to be reunited with family members here. Another 40 requests for entry were denied. Altogether, approximately 1,500 Lebanese citizens managed to enter Israel illegally, and 500 were expelled from the country. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 6 Jul 85 TA]

BROADCASTS TO SHI'ITES--The broadcasting station established by the Defense Ministry for the Shi'ite inhabitants of southern Lebanon has begun broadcasting. This has been reported by sources in southern Lebanon. At this stage, only musical programs are being broadcast. The defense establishment is still looking for suitable announcers and program editors. After these are found and trained, newscasts and commentaries will be broadcast. The broadcasting station was established at the initiative of Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator of activities in Lebanon, with the aim of correcting the propaganda failure after the implementation of the iron fist policy against the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon. The broadcasting studio has been established in the Marj 'Uyun area and the investments involved amount to several million dollars. [By Re'uven Pedatzur] [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 85 p 1]

CSO: 4400/190

LEBANON

FACTIONS VIE FOR POWER AFTER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

Civil War in Sidon

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 1 May 85 pp 34, 35, 37

[Article by Zaki Shihab]

[Text] Israel has succeeded in stifling the Lebanese people's joy at the prospect of its departure from Lebanon. Instead of setting up arches of triumph, the Lebanese were holding funerals to mourn the victims of the civil strife that Israel set off between Sidon, the capital of the south, and its neighboring Christian villages. What Sidon's leaders did not say, although they were thinking it, is this: regardless of Israel's wishes to withdraw from the country, the events in Sidon seemed to suggest that Israel was trying to start a civil war in Lebanon. Israel thinks that a civil war in Lebanon is essential for it: if the Israelis decide to stay in Lebanon, such a war could either justify their presence, or it could confirm the claim that Lebanon cannot manage its own affairs without them. Accordingly, the Israelis went into Lebanon only to help it solve its problems and difficulties.

The incidents in Sidon marked the beginning of the civil war that Israel has been trying to start by stirring up fears in Christian areas and leading people there to believe that Muslim forces were posing a threat to them. Ten years of war have made the climate favorable for division and in-fighting among the Lebanese to flourish despite the apparent immunity of Sidon society to such conditions.

The streets of Sidon were deserted last Monday morning. Violent clashes had occurred the night before on all the fighting fronts in 'Abra, al-Hilaliyah, and al-Qaya'ah; clashes had also occurred in the camps of al-Miyah wa Miyah, 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Darb al-Saym. The city's neighborhoods and streets, which were within range of the Lebanese forces' positions in 'Abra and al-Hilaliyah, were being subjected to sniper fire that almost brought traffic in the city to a standstill.

One of the military leaders in the Nasirist Popular Organization told AL-MAJALLAH, "The Phalangist militias' attempt to advance from the hills of Maghdushah and Darb al-Saym toward the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp has been repelled. We are still trying hard so as not to initiate an attack." The lower floors of many

schools and many new buildings as well are now fully occupied by refugees. The city has no telephone or wireless communications connecting it with other cities in Lebanon and the world because members of these forces cut telephone lines in Mahallah al-Jiyah on the coastal highway. Trade has also been brought to a standstill because many people who used to come to the city to shop decided not to come because of the security situation.

Al-Shaykh Mahir Hamud, member of the Association of Muslim Scholars and a prominent clergyman in Sidon spoke to AL-MAJALLAH about the conditions that Sidon has been experiencing recently. He said, "It is Israel's decision that is behind what happened recently in Sidon. Sidon did overcome many of the crises which the Israeli enemy had engineered. There is no doubt that the intense activities that were collectively carried out by all Sidon forces before and after the withdrawal defused the situation which the Israeli enemy had created. But when the Lebanese Forces openly adopted the Israeli choice through Ja'ja's movement, Israel ordered its agents in Sidon to stir up civil strife and create disturbances. Sidon forces and citizens maintained their self-control in the face of the Lebanese Forces' poor practices. These forces attacked some citizens and struck down their barricades. They fired bullets and rockets on the camps of 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah, and they killed and kidnapped a number of residents. The fate of some of these people is still unknown."

Al-Shaykh Hamud said, "Sidon did not react at all. In fact, some forces thought that Sidon was becoming helpless in the face of such practices. But the fact of the matter is that Sidon was not becoming helpless; it was aware of what was going on, and it was being reasonable. Sidon did not wish to fall into Israel's trap, and it did not want to be dragged into the civil strife that Israel had engineered. In spite of that the Lebanese Forces fired on the neutral Lebanese army and on innocent citizens. Snipers were utilized to eliminate a large number of citizens. The Lebanese Forces broke into homes in a manner that not even the Israeli troops or any intelligence agency in the world had done. They committed crimes and attacked people whose sole concern was to work hard for coexistence and real peace. That proved they had left no place for reconciliation."

[Question] As an Islamic power, what do you think about what is going on?

[Answer] Sidon is still maintaining its position; it is determined not to respond in kind. We were called upon to contain some of the practices that were carried out by some undisciplined elements who wanted to respond to the Lebanese Forces' practices in East Sidon. We did that because our basic and principal battle is with the Israeli enemy. Because the Lebanese Forces' obvious choice has made them part of that enemy, they will not become involved in a decisive battle until that enemy, who has been manipulating the conspiracy behind the scenes, leaves the country. In addition, we have indicated that we were quite willing to cooperate fully with the Christians who rejected the Israeli option and have so declared.

Al-Shaykh Salah al-Din Arqah Dan, the political official of the Islamic Coalition in Sidon, who happened to be in al-Shaykh Hamud's house, described the situation in Sidon as one that has implications for Israel. "The purpose of that situation is to bring Sidon to its knees, a city whose loyal and faithful fighters were utilized to drive out the Israelis. The situation in Sidon also involves American efforts to put an end to any committed Islamic action."

Al-Shaykh Arqah Dan added, "During the Israeli occupation Sidon was able to make itself immune to sectarian propaganda and conflict. It rejected Israeli weapons, and it isolated and spurned all those who dealt with Israel. It emerged from the occupation untarnished and triumphant. When the occupation of the city ended, Israeli intelligence officials began frequenting the areas that are controlled by the Lebanese Forces, east of the city, where they met with their principal officials. As a result of these meetings guns were fired against Palestinian camps and two camp residents were arrested. The two men managed to escape after being held in an orchard on the Maghdushah Road. Our explanation for this escape operation was that it was a considered action whose objective was to rally camp residents so as to make a clash possible between Palestinians and the people of Darb al-Saym. At that time we were able to reason with the people, and we succeeded in putting out the fires of civil strife. We showed our brothers in the camp what the Israelis had hoped to accomplish by the operation they had planned.

"Then al-Miyah wa Miyah camp was attacked. Armed Phalangists entered the camp and fired their weapons in the camp; they killed two children of the Zaydan family and damaged some homes. Then the Phalangists left the camp. At that time we also managed to put out the fires of civil strife. We asked army leaders in the area to conduct an investigation with the attackers. We asked them to consider the matter with the army force that is stationed on a site facing the camp to determine who was responsible for that attack. Immediately after that, actions to provoke the citizens of Sidon began. Lebanese Forces kidnapped five young men whose fate remains unknown. When the armed gangs despaired of provoking the Palestinians and the Lebanese in the camps and in Sidon, they began picking fights with the Lebanese army in particular. Then these gangs set the zero hour for their attack. They attacked at a time when the area was almost deserted: when people were away at work and young people were attending classes in schools and universities."

[Question] Did you contact the Lebanese Forces in the area?

[Answer] Prominent figures in Sidon do not recognize the Lebanese Forces, nor are they willing to recognize them.

[Question] And what is the solution then?

[Answer] We think that it is the function of the Lebanese army and the internal security forces to become directly involved in this matter and resolve the situation.

[Question] You too are being accused of initiating actions to provoke surrounding villages and kidnap their residents.

[Answer] Any charges against Sidon claiming that it opposed or provoked others are nothing but slanderous misrepresentations of the facts. Every eyewitness has affirmed that it was the Israelis who were managing the battle. It was Abu al-Nur in particular, Mosad's official in Sidon while that city was occupied, who oversaw the course of the battles. It is also no secret that mercenary Indian Sikhs have been fighting with the Lebanese Forces in the area. We picked up wireless messages which confirmed the death of three of them.

With Al-Bizri

Dr Nazih al-Bizri, Sidon's representative, was making preparations for a meeting in his home with prominent figures in that city. We told him, "As you see, when the Israelis and their agents who were planning the civil strife found out that their plans to stir up civil strife between Muslims and their Christian neighbors in Sidon had failed, they fired at the army and attacked it. This is briefly what happened. Our position in that matter is this: the army is responsible for security, and it has to oppose the attack. We did not want to interfere; we did not even want to conduct any talks with any faction because the people of Sidon were not involved in this fighting."

Dr al-Bizri said, "Those armed militiamen interfered with our women, men and children; they plundered our homes; and they drove our people out of the area. They forced more than 30,000 residents out of their homes in the city, and they prevented them from returning to their homes, which had been plundered and looted. It is estimated that the financial loss is in excess of hundreds of millions [of pounds]. The people we've been looking after, especially those whose security we've been protecting for the past 10 years more closely than the security of our own children, have suffered enough homelessness and humiliation. It is those militiamen who violated their pledge to close down all militia offices and forbid the appearance of all militiamen when the Israelis withdraw. They said that the army would become the only institution responsible for security. But it seems that they took advantage of the fact that our men were away from their homes: they siezed those homes and threw out the occupants. The people of Sidon are suffering more seriously and grievously than they did during the occupation because there are thousands of refugees in their midst. They find themselves in a situation where the roads south and east of Sidon are blocked and there is only one narrow road on the coast to Beirut. But Sidon will overcome this conspiracy to isolate it just as it overcame the occupier. Sidon will break out of its isolation, and it will continue to be the capital of the south and a haven for Lebanon."

[Question] What is the government's attitude toward the suffering in Sidon?

[Answer] The central government has not afforded the army it sent to south Lebanon the adequate and necessary attention. The brigade it sent is lacking in men and materiel. That is why we asked for reinforcements on the first day of that brigade's arrival. But our appeals went unanswered both by the army command and the government. The present weakness of the Lebanese army in the south threatens not only Sidon but also the entire army. If the army suffers a setback in Sidon, that setback will have an effect on the remaining areas, and the army will never be able to stand on its feet. Officials should look into their hearts and they should provide the army with all the equipment and materiel that are required to enable it to defend the borders of the liberated land and prevent attacks on Lebanon.

[Question] Why don't you allow the Lebanese Forces and Phalangists to participate in the meetings of prominent figures in the area?

[Answer] We stated unequivocally that anyone who wishes to meet with us and decides to do so, must publicly reject the occupation, declare that Israel is an aggressive enemy and declare his opposition to partitioning Lebanon.

[Question] Do you have guarantees that the coastal highway between Sidon and the capital will not be closed?

[Answer] They tried to close it once, but we have no fears in that regard.

[Question] What is being sought by the military escalation of the situation?

[Answer] The Lebanese Forces demanded contact lines, a security committee and changes in the army. We, however, refuse to have contact lines drawn between us and our own people.

[Question] What does the future hold for Sidon in light of what you know?

[Answer] Despite all these adverse incidents and despite the disasters and tragedies that we faced, I believe that we will overcome. We will remain constant and truthful to our objectives that the people and territory of Lebanon remain united and that the country be liberated by a resistance force that does not rest.

[Question] Where do prominent Christians in Jazzin and Sidon stand, in light of your communications with them?

[Answer] Christian nationalists support our position, and they denounce what happened. But they are in no position to take action since their capabilities are controlled by force by this band of forces that is subordinate to Israel as well as by Israel itself. We communicate with them constantly; we are partners.

To the Bishopric

The meeting in the home of Sidon's representative was adjourned, and he requested that the interview be terminated. From there we went to the Maronite Archdiocese of Sidon where the parish priest still resides. We heard the sounds of exploding missiles and gunshots fired from an ambulance that was speeding on its way to a hospital. The bishop welcomed us and ushered us into the guest room at the bishopric. We asked him about conditions, and he said, "People are working furtively behind the scenes to disrupt conditions in every way and from every direction."

[Question] What about the role Israel is playing in the events that are taking place?

[Answer] The Israelis may be all over the place. Evil is evil.

[Question] And what do you think of those operations that drove people out of their homes in 'Abra, al-Hilaliyah and elsewhere?

[Answer] We have condemned, denounced and passed judgment on such actions because they are offensive and unacceptable to anyone with a sound mind and a sensitive conscience. No person who fears God and respects human beings can accept such actions. This is what I meant by the word, evil. All factions escalated their actions and drove people out of their homes. This is the tragedy of reacting: evil is countered by evil, and aggression is countered by more

aggression. Then we have a series of evils that are not nipped by the state. Citizens are entitled to protection: they are entitled to have their lives, their dignity and their property protected.

With the Mufti

The mufti of Sidon, His Eminence al-Shaykh Muhammad Salim Jalal-al-Din also reviewed the situation in Sidon and told AL-MAJALLAH, "The details of what really happened in Sidon's suburbs are not quite clear, but it is certain that this campaign which was carried out by a group from the Lebanese Forces was planned by Israel. Israel is still trying everything it can to stir up civil strife between Muslim and Christian citizens who have been living together in this area. None has felt that the other was alien to him. But ever since Israel came into this area, it has been trying to stir up such civil strife. Shortly before it withdrew from the area, its propaganda and its radio broadcasts started warning citizens in this area against the massacres that will take place in the area. Our reaction to that was [our faith] that Israel will find it impossible to carry out the civil strife it had engineered because the citizens of this area are perceptive; they have been living together; and they do have a consensus.

"Israel's troops did withdraw, but they left behind an explosive situation and an army of collaborators who condone its actions. These collaborators wreaked havoc in the land to serve Israel's interests. We warned fellow citizens about what Israel had left behind and what it had created. To obviate the risk of any civil strife, prominent figures in Sidon decided that no group's and no organization's militiamen were to appear [in public]. All militia offices were to be closed, and the task of preserving security and order was to be left to internal security forces and the army only. Any weapons appearing on the scene which did not belong to legitimate forces would be considered weapons serving Israel. On the 16th of February the Lebanese army entered Sidon, where it was greeted with cheers and songs of joy. Delegations began coming from everywhere to offer their congratulations for the achievement that was made. Among those delegations was one representing the Coalition of Muslim Scholars. Meanwhile, a few agents who had infiltrated the ranks tore up the Lebanese flag, entered two stores where beverages were sold, and vandalized the stores. This happened in Muslim neighborhoods. On the same day Sidon's prominent citizens denounced what had happened and emphasized that no militiamen appear in public. And in fact, after that day there were no incidents that could have jeopardized the alliance and accord among citizens. Then on the 15th of March the so-called uprising occurred. Although it is impeding the course of liberation and salvation, that uprising has been limited to those groups that are affiliated with the Phalangists and the Lebanese Forces.

From the mufti's temporary residence--it is temporary because people are being driven out of their homes--we turned south of Juzin Street where sniper fire has brought traffic to a standstill. From there we went to a school building where scores of refugees from the Palestinian camps of 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah are being provided with shelter.

A father of eight said, "As you can see, this is a terrible way to live! We have not had stability for scores of years. We were delighted when the Israeli

occupiers left this land, and we thought that Sidon had overcome the ordeal. But it seems that Israel's agents did not like the operation, so they disrupted conditions; they fired their rockets and made their snipers fire at the camps and at Sidon. There is no shelter in the camps and most of the streets in Sidon are vulnerable to sniper fire. There are no services and no assistance that can make up for the predicament we are experiencing. UNRWA gave us five kilograms of flour and half a kilogram of sugar per person. Does this make sense when we've been unemployed for a long time and have nothing to fall back on but patience?"

Another woman said, "We see nothing but societies writing down the names of refugees, but we have not seen any assistance. We need blankets, and we also need food and medical supplies. My child got diarrhea most probably because of the cold and because we have no blankets."

The sounds of the shells on those fronts where fighting has been going on got louder as the sun set. We carried our gear and headed back toward Beirut. As the shelling intensified, it was feared that the coastal highway might be closed, leaving both residents and visitors to Sidon, the capital of the south, caught in the middle of a siege.

Fighting Spreads in Iqlim al-Kharrub

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 8-14 May 85 pp 8-9

[Article by Zaki Shihab]

[Text] One of the characteristics of Mr Walid Junblatt's leadership--he is the president of Lebanon's Socialist Progressive Party--is the fact that his is a militant political leadership. His father was purely a political leader. But the present stage of Lebanon's history is one of militant politicians. This is the opposite of how things are in some Arab countries where the scene belongs to military men who are involved in politics.

It was from Barja, one of the larger towns in Iqlim al-Kharrub, that Junblatt managed his technically and politically successful campaign. His recent military action in al-Iqlim was the second time he scored a success after the famous battle of Mount Lebanon where Junblatt decisively secured his power to make unilateral political decisions. He virtually routed the Lebanese Forces and altered the distribution of the population in the area. Mount Lebanon became the Druze mountain, just as it had been known throughout history. In the battle of al-Iqlim Junblatt established total authority on the rest of al-Shuf area in Lebanon, where Christian villages and towns are still being guarded by the Lebanese Forces and by the Phalangist Party.

Commentators are saying that "After Junblatt resolved the battle of al-Shuf, his ability to influence the destiny of the south itself grew, particularly the areas of Sidon and Juzin which, historically, have been under the old Junblatt leadership."

There was almost no traffic at all on the coastal highway between the capital, Beirut, and Sidon at 7 o'clock last Sunday morning. Soldiers were sitting on both sides of the road at al-Damur Bridge at the army roadblock. There was a

civilian car on fire at the al-Dibyah-al-Sa'diyat intersection. But there was a lot of traffic at the northern entrance to the town of al-Jiyah: there were military vehicles and Soviet T-54 tanks that belonged to the Socialist Progressive Party. Fighters and security police were closely examining the identification papers of passers-by, and one of the men at the roadblock smiled and said, "Bear with us for a little while; you can take it easy after that."

A fighter told AL-MAJALLAH, "A mine exploded at dawn today and killed four fighters from the Socialist Union."

We kept going. There was another security roadblock at the Barja-al-Jiyah intersection. Furniture was piled up on both sides of the roadblock as flames engulfed other materials. The driver said, "These are stolen goods that have been confiscated." We stopped in al-Jiyah in front of the office of a military leader in the Progressive Party to tell the people there who we were. We were greeted by a young man, and we asked who was the official responsible for the area. A young man said that the official was not there, "but it would be all right for me to give you any information you wish to have." We asked him about the military operation and what had happened while it was being carried out.

He said, "On Friday evening, that is, 48 hours before the attack, a meeting of the subcommittee for security was held, but Salam 'Id, the representative of the Lebanese Forces did not attend. Hani Shahin al-Qazi and George 'Id attended in his place. The meeting was also attended by 'Ala'-al-Din Taru for the Progressive party; by Lt Col Tal'at al-Ayubi for the security forces; and by Maj Raja Zaytun for the army. All those who attended the meeting were told of an ultimatum that the Progressive party had issued through 'Ala' Taru to the Lebanese Forces. The Progressive Party wanted the region neutralized and representatives of the Lebanese Forces who took part in engineering the battles in Iqlim al-Kharrub ousted. Those who attended the meeting were also informed of a pledge that had been made by the Progressive Party and by other national parties in al-Iqlim to guarantee Christians' security, honor and property.

"On the evening of the same day the Progressive Party contacted Father Sam'an Nasr, the mayor of Dayr al-Makhlis, and invited him to play a role in the area. He was asked to reach an understanding with prominent Christians for the purpose of getting the Lebanese Forces out of al-Iqlim. On Saturday the committee resumed its meeting at 11 a.m. This time all committee members, including Salam 'Id, attended the meeting. At that meeting 'Ala'-al-Din Taru, acting on behalf of the Progressive Party and national forces, offered major facilities regarding the matter of getting the forces out of the area. Anyone whose involvement in the murders and kidnappings that occurred in al-Iqlim was established would be driven out of the area. At 8:30 on the evening of the same day the meeting was resumed. Following communications with prominent Christian figures in which good intentions were expressed by the party and by national forces, Salam 'Id turned down our demands. He insisted that the Lebanese Forces refused to withdraw or, if they did, Christians would have to leave with them any way. Actually, as soon as the meeting was adjourned, Christians, especially those who resided in al-Jiyah, began to assemble in their private cars in front of the pier at the port of al-Jiyah thermal plant.

"Meanwhile, communications with the command sponsored by Mr Walid Junblatt, the

"Meanwhile, communications with the command sponsored by Mr Walid Junblatt, the president of the party were underway. The zero hour was set at 4 a.m. Sunday. Afterwards fighters in al-Iqlim who made up the force that stormed the area were mobilized and deployed at [various] centers, the most prominent of which were those at Darayya-'Ayn al-Hur, at al-Shamis-al-Barjin, at Barja-al-Jiyah, at Siblin-Jadra-Wadi-al-Zaynah, at al-Wardaniyah, at al-Rumaylah, at al-Mughayrah and at Majdalyun. From the operations room, 'Ala'-al-Din Taru, undersecretary of the interior in al-Iqlim, along with a group of his assistants from various parties, followed developments in the military situation. At 4 a.m. orders were received by companies and groups to carry out the tasks with which they had been charged. The artillery fire at all centers was violent and intense. At 6 a.m. news confirmed that all the Lebanese Forces' positions, including the one at al-Ramilah, had finally fallen."

We asked the young man, "What happened to the civilian residents?" The young man went on to say, "Members of the security police were quickly deployed in sensitive positions to control security. They were to work with the People's Liberation Army in establishing direct control over all Christian civilians in preparation for their relocation in a safe place in al-Mashrif. This relocation was to be coordinated with the Lebanese army."

Phalangist motor boats had come to a stop opposite the power company in al-Jiyah. As soon as they tried approaching the shore, they were fired upon, and the boats fired back. The suburbs of Sidon were quiet at noon of the same day. Units from the People's Liberation Army in Sidon--the units of Ma'ruf Sa'd--were making preparations for liberating the rest of the areas east of Sidon. These forces had already decided on the zero hour for their attack on the Lebanese Forces' positions in Majdalyun, al-Salihiyah and Kafr Falus.

The operation to attack Sidon lasted till three o'clock in the afternoon. As a result of that operation, the Lebanese Forces retreated from Lab'a to Kafr Falus, and the forces of the People's Liberation Army stationed themselves 600 meters from the barracks at Kafr Falus.

But what about the villages from which the Lebanese Forces have been driven out? What happened to their Christian residents?

Dr Nabil al-Ra'i, a leader of the Nasirist Popular Organization in Sidon told AL-MAJALLAH, "There were no Christians in the villages that were liberated. The Lebanese Forces had transported those Christians in trucks that traveled in convoys to Jazzin and from there to Marj 'Uyun and the border strip." Dr Al-Ra'i said that eyewitnesses reported that "The vehicles in the convoy were bumper to bumper all the way from Jazzin to Marj 'Uyun, and the number of people who were forced by the Lebanese Forces to leave their villages amounted to about 13,000 citizens."

Dr Nazih al-Bizri, the representative from Sidon, told AL-MAJALLAH, "What happened east of Sidon was the inevitable result of the Lebanese Forces' practices." Dr al-Bizri called upon the army to take control of matters in the city, and he affirmed that no one wanted to take the place of the legitimate government or its agencies.

Representative al-Bizri had this to say about the future of Christian
whose residents have left: "We are in the process of inviting every Christian
who has had nothing to do with the Lebanese Forces to return."

Boundaries Redrawn between Militias

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 8-14 May 85 pp 10-11

[Article by Ilyas Harfush]

[Text] The Israeli army's successive withdrawals from areas in Lebanon it occupied in 1982 are serving as indicators of new rounds of violence, sectarian massacres and the induced emigration of citizens in Lebanon. If one could recall incidents with some measure of objectivity and chronological sequence, one would be astounded by the precision with which these massacres and the forced evacuation of people have been carried out since Sabra and Shatila. These are the two massacres that followed the departure of the Israeli army from West Beirut and the entry of the Phalangist forces in their place. In Sidon and in the Christian villages around it, Israel's withdrawal was followed by the forced evacuation of people from their homes; people were killing each other. This also led a large number of these villages' residents to flee, seeking protection with the Christian majority in Juzin and in the security zone that Israel intends to maintain by means of its subordinate, the army of Antoine Lahad. These operations also broadened the control that is exercised by Mr Nabih Barri's and Mr Walid Junblatt's militias over Sidon and the area around it. The coastal highway between Beirut and Sidon also came under the control of these militias after they seized total control over security in West Beirut and in the Christian villages that are located on that highway. These villages had maintained some sort of identity in accordance with a previous agreement between the Phalangist militia and Mr Junblatt's militia.

All this happened after Israel withdrew from Sidon and the areas around it and then from Juzin itself. Israel withdrew despite an earlier decision to stay in that area until the promised third stage of the withdrawal would be completed during the first week of June. Despite Israel's warnings, which lasted over 1 month, that there would be sectarian massacres between Sidon and the areas around it after the withdrawal, and despite the warnings about the security vacuum that would take place following that withdrawal, the disintegration of the situation in that area required that Phalangist militias bring in more than 500 armed militiamen from other areas. These militiamen deployed their military fortifications in Christian villages and proceeded to fire at the city of Sidon and the camps of 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah. They said they were firing their weapons to protect Christian residents. When these elements were unexpectedly withdrawn late last month from the villages that had started the battles which lasted between them and Sidon for over 3 weeks, they asked civilian residents to leave their homes and go to Juzin because they could be subjected to massacres if they were to stay. As a result, homes in some of these villages were plundered, looted and burned. Mr Junblatt and Mr Barri as well as the forces that are fighting in Sidon denounced these operations. One must wonder, however, whether militiamen in Lebanon are now acting spontaneously and on their own or if they are still acting on orders from their leaders. If those leaders are not culpable, if they are patriotic, if they are opposed to plans to segregate people according to their sects, if they oppose plans to partition the country, and if they support plans for national unity, where then are the actual actions which indicate that?

Precise Execution

What is extraordinary and curious about the Lebanese tragedy is that the incidents are being repeated in the same remarkable manner. They are being carried out just as they were planned and outlined on paper. Execution is extremely precise, down to the last detail. Although all leaders did declare they were fully aware of the conspiracy's dangers and objectives, what happened in the villages of South Lebanon also happened in the villages of al-Shuf: it happened in the same manner, and it was done by the same people. These massacres forced a large number of Christian residents of al-Shuf to leave their homes. Mr Junblatt too denounced what had happened, and he considered the Lebanese war "a dirty war" just as he is considering it now. However, the massacres in al-Shuf also started after Phalangist militias brought their people into the villages of al-Shuf, even though these areas have been traditionally subject to the influence of the Junblatt family leaders. At the same time most Christians were loyal to President Camille Sham'un who at that time did not condone Phalangist attempts to control al-Shuf. President Sham'un's attitude toward those attempts was very similar to his present attitude toward the battles in the south. He is calling for tranquillity and the withdrawal of Phalangist forces from combat areas. Consequently, Dayr al-Qamar, President Sham'un's town has been almost the only Christian village in al-Shuf that escaped sectarian segregation operations and maintained some measure of its own identity, which it is still maintaining today.

The battles of al-Shuf followed the first stage of Israel's withdrawal. As a result, boundaries were drawn for a geographical area that is controlled by Mr Walid Junblatt's militia. This area is referred to in the western press as the Druze canton. Despite repeated promises from Junblatt and others that all those who had been forced to leave their homes in this area would return, the political and sectarian facts of the situation are consolidating the segregation that now exists in this and neighboring areas. Battles in south Lebanon--in Sidon and Juzin--are now being fought after the second stage of Israel's withdrawal. The indicators of these battles suggest that the boundaries of yet another geographical area are being drawn. This area will be controlled by an alliance between Amal militias and Mr Junblatt, reinforced by local forces from Sidon. It is feared that, despite promises, the forced evacuation of homes in this area will be consolidated just as it was in al-Shuf. It seems in this case that the future of Juzin and neighboring areas will be tied to a decision by Antoine Lahad and his army to leave the area and give it something similar to the identity that the town of Dayr al-Qamar in al-Shuf now has.

The future of security in Juzin is also tied to Syria's consent to involve the Lebanese army's First Brigade in this area--and that is something that comes close to Syria's wishes. This consent is contingent upon Antoine Lahad's withdrawal from Juzin because at this stage Damascus wishes to avoid a direct confrontation with Israel. It may thus be understood why this brigade was able to become involved in the western al-Biqa' after Israel withdrew from there. It may thus be understood why this brigade was able to prevent sectarian segregation in the western al-Biqa', but was unable to do the same thing in Juzin.

In Lebanese politics the consequences of the battles in al-Shuf were as important as the demographic changes that occurred in that area. These battles nullified the 17 May Agreement between Lebanon and Israel. They also strengthened the local positions of Mr Nabih Barri in West Beirut and Mr Walid Junblatt in al-Shuf. The battles of al-Shuf, which were fought in the summer and fall of 1983, and later the battles of Beirut, or what the Amal movement and its allies call the 6 February 1984 uprising, changed President Amin al-Jumayyil's policy. That policy, which used to favor American interests and the interests of America's western allies, changed to a policy that favored Syrian interests and the interests of Syria's regional and local allies.

One of the inconsistencies of Lebanese politics is the fact that al-Jumayyil's turn toward the Syrians and his willingness to go along with their interests led, or at least appeared to have led, to the uprising that was carried out by Samir Ja'ja' in Beirut's eastern sections against the Phalangist Party and President Amin al-Jumayyil. Ja'ja''s uprising coincided with his militias' involvement in Sidon and the volatile developments which led to the situation that exists in the south today. It was then said that there was an understanding between President al-Jumayyil and Syria's leaders to give the Lebanese government a "two months' period" to contain Ja'ja''s uprising. It was also said that Syria's leaders were refusing to hold any talks with those who perpetrated the uprising because they considered them Israeli agents. But now that the 2 months have gone by, many battles in West Beirut and in Sidon have been settled in Syria's favor and in the favor of Syria's Lebanese allies. The battle of West Beirut was a transparent cover for a confrontation between Syrians and Palestinians--those serving under 'Arafat's leadership in many areas of the Arab region. The battle of Sidon was partly a transparent cover for the same confrontation, particularly after 'Arafat's statements that his forces would fight in Sidon and would return to south Lebanon "to fight Israel." Neither the Syrians nor those in the Amal Movement find such statements satisfactory.

Sources close to Mr Barri and Mr Junblatt explain the transgressions that occurred in the battles of Sidon and neighboring areas by saying that it was "'Arafat's people" who plundered Christian villages. They said that the people of Sidon, Amal's fighters and Junblatt's militiamen had nothing to do with that. And now that the 2 months since Ja'ja''s uprising have gone by, Ja'ja' and his associates have rejoined the Phalangist Party and resumed talks with al-Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. Phalangist Party leaders retracted their decision to oust Samir Ja'ja' from the party, and Ja'ja' was pardoned and reinstated by the party. A rescue committee that will undertake leadership of the Phalangist party has been formed; it includes 10 members and Ja'ja' and four of his group are serving on that committee. Ja'ja' has been given full authority to oversee Phalangist military agencies. These are the agencies that are subordinate to what the Phalangist Party calls the Lebanese Forces. He has been given the power to resume talks with President Amin al-Jumayyil to "unify Christian ranks and put an end to the disputes between Phalangists and the Lebanese Forces." It was reported that al-Jumayyil told a delegation from the Lebanese Forces that had visited him in his town of Bikfayya, "Government cannot be strong when the ranks, especially the Christian ranks, are divided."

Al-Jumayyil's Opportunity

It is only the near future that will show whether the opportunity that was given to President Amin al-Jumayyil to arrange his affairs with the uprising was the opportunity that was needed for what happened in Beirut and Sidon or whether it was an opportunity during which the Syrians had expected other things to happen. At any rate, Syria's leaders employed much caution and intelligence to avoid commenting on the incidents that occurred in Sidon and the incidents that accompanied those occurrences. However, Syria's attitude toward the new understanding between al-Jumayyil and Ja'ja's group will inevitably become clear soon, either through statements or direct actions. It will then become clear who contained whom, from Damascus's point of view: President al-Jumayyil or those who rebelled against him?

This Syrian attitude will depend to a large extent on developments in the south. If Israel's first withdrawal was followed by battles in al-Shuf, and if its second withdrawal was followed by battles in Sidon and Juzin, much is being expected now with regard to the stage that will follow the third withdrawal. Much is expected regarding the future of the security zone on the Lebanese-Israeli borders where the "army" of Antoine Lahad will be working with the Israeli army and serving as the backbone of that security zone. Meanwhile, Israeli leaders are insisting that they will not interfere in Juzin to protect Christians. They are saying that they decided "not to interfere from now on in the internal political affairs of Lebanese sects." Israel has a clear position which states that the future of non-Christian sects within the security zone will depend on the future of Christians in Juzin. Israel explains this policy by saying that it does not want what is happening now in other areas of south Lebanon--in Sidon and Juzin--to be repeated within the security zone. In other words, Israel thinks there are two threats to that zone. The first threat is that which would come from continued operations against its forces and perhaps against Israeli territory. That threat depends to a large extent on the continued presence of elements loyal to Amal within the zone. The second threat would come from the possibility that sectarian clashes between Christians and Muslims might occur on the border strip as a reaction to operations in which people in Sidon were forced out of their homes. This can also happen in Juzin and in the area around it.

The sectarian mix that Israel intends to maintain within the security zone on its borders reflects that mix which existed in the areas that were invaded by the Israeli forces before the sectarian massacres occurred and before people were driven out of their homes. The area of that zone is 850 square kilometers, that is, 8 percent of Lebanese territory. That area is inhabited by 115,000 persons distributed as follows: 50,000 Shi'ites, 35,000 Christians, 15,000 Sunnis and 15,000 Druze. The principal problem will be that between Lahad's army and the Shi'ites, as well as the Druze who collaborate with the Shi'ites. Many observers fear that the forced evacuation of Christians from their homes in Sidon and Juzin will be countered by the forced evacuation of Shi'ites, Sunnis and Druze. Observers fear this might be done to keep those people away from the border strip, thereby using Christians in the security zone as a first line of defense for Israeli security.

Although the plan appears to be quite unusual when committed to paper, the Lebanese tragedy proved that Lebanon is a place where all plans can be grasped and implemented. When actions and reactions begin, it becomes difficult to

determine who is carrying out an action and who is reacting to that action. It may even be true to say that both an action and the reaction to it constitute a connected series of actions without which the plan itself cannot be implemented. Therefore, observers are viewing with considerable caution those sincere efforts that are being made to prevent the implementation of the third episode of the sectarian operation to drive people out of their homes. They do not want this operation to be extended into south Lebanon, and they want to prevent the "population exchange" operations that are being discussed. It is unfortunate, however, that these efforts are superseded by greater and more effective forces. As long as the interests of these forces--and these are forces that have local agents in Lebanon--agree to divide and partition Lebanon as they see fit, and as long as their interests do not conflict with that, it would be difficult for one to see how the cycle of bloody violence that exists now will be brought to an end.

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CSO: 4404/382

LEBANON

SOUTH LEBANESE ARMY LEADER ON JAZZIN POSITION

Beirut LA REVUE DU LIBAN in French 15-22 Jun 85 pp 16-18

[Interview with Gen Antoine Lahd by Nelly Helou in Marjeyoun; date of interview not specified]

[Text] Gen Antoine Lahd, a 56-year-old father, has headed the South Lebanese Army (SLA) since April 1984, when he officially became commander in an impressive ceremony held in Bint-Jbeil, one of the largest districts in southern Lebanon with a predominantly Shi'ite population (see LA REVUE DU LIBAN No 1273, 14-21 April 1984).

A Maronite Christian, native of the village of Kafr Qatra'(a "qada'" in the Shuf) and career soldier, General Lahd served in the Lebanese Army for 35 years (from 1948 to 1983). His army comrades say he has a firm and determined personality, is capable of striking with an iron hand when necessary, and is a highly qualified professional.

Today, in the final stage of the Israeli withdrawal, the SLA commander has been catapulted into the forefront of current events and finds himself facing more than one problem, namely Jazzin, UNIFIL, the Shi'ite resistance of the "Amal" movement, and religious fundamentalists. Will the SLA survive Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon? These are some of the problems and issues General Lahd addressed when he met with me in his office in Marjeyoun, while also affirming his determination to continue his mission in the highest interest of Lebanon, its territorial integrity and its freedom. He seems sure of himself and the path to which he is committed.

This interview took place before the incident between the SLA and UNIFIL, when General Lahd took 22 Finnish UN troops prisoner in order to swap them for 11 of his soldiers captured by "Amal."

[Question] General, in a few days Israel will complete the final stage of its withdrawal from Lebanon. What will be the future of the South Lebanese Army (SLA) that you command?

[Answer] The South Lebanese Army will continue to control the areas in which it is already present, no more no less.

[Question] How do you define these areas and their boundaries?

[Answer] They are well known to everyone; they include part of what used to be called the border strip and extend as far as Jabal el-Rihan. Jazzin is not part of this "security zone," but is under my control, as it provides protection for the SLA.

[Question] In withdrawing from southern Lebanon, has Israel given you any guarantee as to the future of your army and the financial, material, military and moral support needed to continue your task?

[Answer] You talk to me about guarantees as though I were a child! Relax, I'll still be around; and if there weren't sufficient support on all those levels, regardless of the source and the nature of that support, I wouldn't remain on the scene.

[Question] At this time of Israel's final stage of withdrawal, Minister Nabih Berri has already proclaimed, on several occasions, that with the departure of the last Israeli soldier from Lebanon, he now considers the SLA the enemy, against which the national resistance will direct its action. What is your position toward the threats of the "Amal" leader and Shi'ite fundamentalist groups such as Hizbollah, Jundallah and others?

[Answer] Contrary to what Mr Nabih Berri thinks, we do not consider him our enemy, even if he considers us his enemy. To us, he is and remains a Lebanese citizen, but the day he decides to fight me, he will be making a mistake and I will in turn be obliged to fight his men.

[Question] Have you established any dialogue with Mr Berri or with "Amal" representatives in the border strip?

[Answer] No, thus far there has been no dialogue. However, I would like to have a dialogue, because the day there is a clash between us, it will be the region's inhabitants who will pay the price. If Mr Berri is aware of his responsibilities, if he really wants [to act in] the interest of the Lebanese and southern Lebanon, he will avoid any conflict.

[Question] Are you ready for a dialogue?

[Answer] I have no hang-ups concerning anyone, based on the principle that a dialogue is in Lebanon's interest.

[Question] General, currently the SLA's presence in Jazzin and its region constitutes a stumbling block for political negotiations. This has become a regional, national and even international problem. Are you determined to maintain your presence there regardless of what may happen?

[Answer] Let Jazzin's inhabitants and active forces assume their responsibilities. If they don't want me present, let them say so publicly and ask for the Lebanese Army. I will evacuate the area within 24 hours. But if Jazzin's inhabitants do want me present, then no one will be allowed back in--not the 1st Brigade, nor the 2nd, nor the 5th, nor any other. You may

also rest assured that if I left Jazzin, its inhabitants would follow me and abandon the region.

[Question] It's possible that your departure could trigger a massive exodus from Jazzin and its region, but isn't your presence also disturbing?

[Answer] My job is not to change the minds of the people or to give them strong nerves. I'm in this area because I know for a fact that if I weren't here, none of its sons would be here. There would no longer be any leaders to hold negotiations and the region would suffer the same fate as the districts of east Sidon.

My sole objective in remaining present here is to find a formula to assure the security of the inhabitants, their property, their dignity and their freedom. Let the Lebanese Government therefore assume its responsibilities; let the president of the republic and the commander of the army take responsibility for Jazzin. If no one dares to do so, I have enough courage to take responsibility for this region.

[Question] What guarantee can you give to Jazzin's inhabitants? What proves to them that you will always be able to protect them and what would happen in the event of an armed conflict between the SLA and the 1st Brigade?

General Lahd became annoyed:

[Answer] Am I a notary to sign and stamp a contract? And what do such guarantees mean? The region of Jazzin was attacked and I defended it. I thwarted the attack, I protected it and I am ready to continue to do so.

[Question] Do you have sufficient capabilities to continue to defend the region?

[Answer] That's my business!

[Question] Do you believe in the effectiveness of the negotiations underway regarding Jazzin and its region?

[Answer] I hope that they will lead to concrete results and that this "qada'" will not suffer the tragedy of the Shuf and the districts of east Sidon.

[Question] Some people think that the army, to be deployed in Jazzin, should take the coast road and go through the outskirts of east Sidon rather than come through the west Bekaa Valley. Is that one of your conditions for withdrawing the SLA and, if not, what plan do you propose?

[Answer] That is not exactly the issue. It is primarily a question of not creating a void that would cause the fall of Jazzin. That is why I propose, first of all, before the SLA evacuates Jazzin, that the Lebanese Army take responsibility for the security of the area below Kafr Falus to enable people who have abandoned their homes and property to reclaim them without fear. If everything goes well, I will leave Jazzin and the army can come in

either along the "Walid Bey Road," the coast or through the west Bekaa Valley, as it pleases. And whether it is the 1st, 2nd or any other brigade, it will be welcome.

But if I leave the region before a serious arrangement has been concluded in advance, between the time of my withdrawal and the army's arrival the scenario that will occur has become a classic. We have seen what happened in the Shuf and in Sidon. Why not learn from that? In any case, I am not willing to turn Jazzin over to a militia or to an army that would later turn it over to some other militia. My sole concern is to assure the region's security; I am ready to accept any formula that I believe would satisfy that objective.

[Question] How would you react if there were Syrian pressure on the Lebanese Government for the 1st Brigade to penetrate Jazzin at any cost?

[Answer] That is not my affair, rather it is the affair of the Lebanese Government. Is the government prepared, under pressure, to deprive Jazzin of its sons? It has only to say publicly: "I must drive out Lahd before sending in the army." That would result in a new exodus of the population.

[Question] A dialogue concerning the region of Jazzin is reportedly underway between the SLA and Walid Junblatt's men. It is even rumored that one or more meetings with the PSP [Progressive Socialist Party] have taken place, reportedly in the SLA's barracks in Jazzin. Is this true?

[Answer] No, there have been no meetings. Speaking for myself, I appreciate Walid Junblatt's position concerning the city of Jazzin and its region. He has spoken of a "red line" that must be respected. On the other hand, I have trouble understanding the reaction of Mr Nabih Berri and the "Amal" movement to this issue. What have they to do with the region?

[Question] Now in the final stage of Israel's withdrawal, relations between the SLA and UNIFIL seem to pose problems.... Exactly what are your relations with the UN peacekeeping forces?

[Answer] Basically, neither I nor the SLA is against UNIFIL. We respect the United Nations and are trying to coordinate our actions with UNIFIL to avoid any conflict. UN forces are stationed in a region in which the government is nonexistent and the missions assigned to them in 1978 can no longer be carried out today in the field. I wrote General Callaghan a letter, calling his attention to the need to coordinate our actions in order to avoid problems that are not in the interest of either the Lebanese people or UNIFIL, or the SLA. I have not received a reply as yet.

And UNIFIL is also not strong enough to prevent armed elements from carrying out acts of terrorism along the Israeli border and even within Israeli territory, which would cause the Israeli Army to intervene constantly in Lebanon. As a Lebanese, I reject this situation and I will combat terrorist acts to prevent a new Israeli operation in Lebanon.

[Question] Could the solution lie in the enlargement of UNIFIL's zone of operation and increasing its forces?

[Answer] Regardless of what they do, they cannot prevent terrorists from infiltrating the border area. Similarly, the armed elements attacking the SLA depart from or pass through the areas controlled by UNIFIL. The presence of the UN forces is pointless. They are posted at entrances and exits to areas, but 100 meters farther anyone can bring through guns and munitions. At roadblocks, they check identification cards without knowing who is Lebanese and who isn't! What have they been able to do since 1978, when they arrived in southern Lebanon? Have they prevented the infiltration of terrorists?

[Question] Would you be in favor of UNIFIL's total withdrawal?

[Answer] If UNIFIL is assigned the same missions and the same personnel, its presence will be irrelevant.

[Question] As an entity of the United Nations, UNIFIL cannot officially recognize the SLA. What do you propose for avoiding friction between yourselves, especially since your men are located in the same areas controlled by UN forces?

[Answer] It matters little to me whether they recognize me or not. The important thing is that we achieve some form of coordination to avoid conflict. That is my only objective. Because if UN troops obstruct my actions in the field, my forces are stronger than theirs and I have the means to immobilize them.

I am a Lebanese who is determined to go anywhere within Lebanese territory. If necessary, I would go beyond the areas I control. Because here it isn't just a case of the Palestinians. Are international forces capable of preventing attacks by "Amal" and pro-Khomeyni forces, from their zone of operation, against the SLA? If they could assume such a responsibility, I would withdraw from their area; otherwise I would be obliged to reenter their zone.

[Question] According to New York's directives, UNIFIL is scheduled to reinforce its positions in the areas under its control following Israel's withdrawal. Is the SLA prepared to accept this?

[Answer] We are ready to fight UNIFIL if it plans to dislodge us by force of arms or to obstruct our actions. We are determined to defend ourselves with arms and, if necessary, to dislodge UN forces from their barricades.

[Question] Does the SLA have any contact with the Lebanese Army command at Yarze?

[Answer] We maintain no relations with the central government. When that government and the military command are free to make their own decisions, it will not be difficult to reach an understanding.

[Question] What are your relations with the Lebanese Forces' [FL] command?

[Answer] We have the same objective and are involved in a joint effort in the service of Lebanon. But there is no military coordination between ourselves.

[Question] Is there still an FL presence in the regions under your control?

[Answer] There is no presence of either the FL or political parties.

[Question] It is said that some FL members have joined your army.

[Answer] It is simply a matter of some sons of the Jazzin region who have chosen to remain here to defend their land and their families.

[Question] General, could you tell us the present strength of the SLA?

[Answer] The SLA has enough personnel to defend the region in which it is located.

[Question] Who provides the financing for your army? Is it exclusively the Hebrew state?

He answered sarcastically:

[Answer] Secret forces.

[Question] What are the conditions for recruiting SLA members?

[Answer] They must be Lebanese in good health between 17 and 35 years old and must satisfy the requirements for enlisting in the Lebanese Army.

[Question] What is their training?

[Answer] New recruits first undergo general training and then each soldier continues it within his own unit.

[Question] It is said that the training is conducted in Israel.

[Answer] Certain specific training cycles are carried out in Israel, but since I have been in charge of the SLA I have opened a training center in Majidiyeh that provides all kinds of training, with the exception of some specialties. Some of our instructors go to Israel to further develop their specialties in order to be able to train others in them.

[Question] In Beirut, the SLA is described as a militia just like the country's other militias.

[Answer] As a general of the Lebanese Army, I don't know how to control a militia, but I do know how to train an army!

[Question] It is said that a good number of displaced persons from east Sidon districts have joined the SLA. Don't you thus have a recruiting problem?

[Answer] I can assure you that 90 percent of those in the SLA defending Jazzin are natives of the region.

[Question] It is said that Shi'ite members are deserting the SLA, which risks becoming a Christian army of southern Lebanon.

[Answer] Others would like it to be that way, but we are trying to overcome this phenomenon. Within the SLA there are as many Druze and Shi'ite members as Christians. Proof of this is that a few days ago 26 SLA Shi'ite soldiers joined the ranks of "Amal."

[Question] The news media reported that incident in a totally different way. "Amal" fighters reportedly attacked three SLA positions in the villages of Majdel Selm, Toulina and Safad el-Battich, where 26 of your soldiers were reportedly captured....

[Answer] That report is without any factual basis. There was no fighting or occupation of the area. It was quite simply a matter of 25 Shi'ite SLA members on the front lines who chose to join "Amal." There was no exchange of gunfire. Undoubtedly influenced by the Palestinian-Shi'ite war taking place in the camps in Beirut, those members took their weapons and decided to join "Amal" to fight the Palestinians. May God be with them.

[Question] Do you have minimum freedom of action or are you directly subordinate to Israeli Defense Forces [IDF]?

[Answer] In areas where I am in the field with the IDF, we coordinate our activities, which is normal. Where I am alone in the field, as in Jazzin, I make my own decisions.

[Question] In withdrawing from Lebanon, Israel is maintaining checkpoints along the border. Is this in the interest of the Hebrew state, the SLA or both? Do you agree with this?

[Answer] That area is of great importance to Israel and it is normal for it to maintain observation posts.

The Lebanese, the Arabs and the whole world must also understand, once and for all, that we have not been hired by Israel. We have a common interest with the Hebrew state and are acting accordingly. Israel wants to assure the security of its borders and northern regions, while we must defend every inch of Lebanese territory, particularly the portion bordering on Israel, with whom we have an interest in maintaining good-neighbor relations, ending the state of war between our two countries, and promoting the peace process.

[Question] In short, you're in favor of a peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon?

[Answer] If it is difficult to reach that point at present, an agreement capable of guaranteeing the security of Lebanon and Israel's northern border should at least be concluded.

[Question] Why not adopt the 1948 armistice agreement?

[Answer] Because it has not produced the desired results. Over the years southern Lebanon has become a bastion of anti-Israeli terrorism.

[Question] Have there been any changes in your mission between the time you agreed to head the SLA and the Israeli withdrawal?

[Answer] I chose to be here right after cancellation of the agreement of 17 May because I felt it was my duty to act in my country's interest. Today I am still convinced that if I weren't in this area, Israel would have annexed it long ago. My presence in southern Lebanon makes it possible for this portion of the country to remain Lebanese.

[Question] The boundaries of this border strip are still undefined, aren't they?

[Answer] I don't call it the "border strip." It is a portion of the country under my control, comprising one-ninth of national territory.

[Question] In carrying out this task, you have chosen to emerge from anonymity to become part of history....

[Answer] I seek neither to become part of nor be left out of history. I am here to assure Lebanon's freedom.

[Question] Your life is in danger. You have already been the target of more than one assassination attempt.

[Answer] Who isn't in danger in this country, from here to Beirut and from the north to the Bekaa Valley?

[Question] Does your family live with you?

[Answer] Of course! Do you expect me to live alone?

[Question] What is your vision of the future and are you optimistic?

[Answer] It's not a question of being optimistic or pessimistic. And there is no proof that the Lebanese crisis is going to be resolved anytime soon. I'm satisfied with being realistic. That's enough for me.

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CSO: 4419/11

1 August 1985

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

GEORGE HABASH COMMENTS ON WAR IN CAMPS

Tunis AL-MAWQIF in Arabic 1 Jun 85 pp 43-44

[Interview with Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine: "Why Is Amal Fighting the Palestinians?"; date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] AL-MAWQIF got in touch with Dr George Habash, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] in the midst of all the turmoil over the battles in the camps, as the Shi'ite Amal Movement was waging its war of extermination against Palestinian guerilla positions around Beirut. AL-MAWQIF asked Dr Habash, who is a symbolic figure of the Resistance and one of the most outstanding members of the National Salvation Front, to express his opinion about the new factors on the Lebanese-Palestinian scene.

"The Doctor," as he is known in Palestinian circles, spoke clearly and briefly when he answered our questions. In this exclusive interview with AL-MAWQIF George Habash talked about Palestinian-Syrian relations; he talked about his actions in numerous Arab capitals; and he also talked about the dangers that would ensue the fall of the camps, whose heroic steadfastness against the Shi'ites continues. We had the following interview with him.

[Question] How do you explain the eruption of battles in the camps in Beirut?

[Answer] Battles erupted in the camps in Beirut as a result of a pre-meditated attack that was planned by the Amal movement and the Lebanese government. Amal, which took over matters in south Lebanon after the invading Zionist troops withdrew from there, wants to ensure that Palestinian fighters will not return to south Lebanon. Therefore, it has to end the presence of armed Palestinian nationals in Lebanon. The aim of the war in the camps, then, is to do away with the presence of armed, Palestinian nationals in Lebanon so that conditions can be disposed of on the scene more easily.

[Question] The Amal Movement and its supporters thought they could establish control over the camps in a few hours. What is the secret behind the steadfastness at the camps?

[Answer] Palestinian rebels and the Palestinian masses in the camps of Beirut, Sabra, Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah, are defending their national right to be armed their right to defend themselves and their right to continue their struggle to

liberate Palestine. Palestinians have always resisted all Zionist attempts to strike them and crush their weaponry. However, when Arabs try to take away their weapons, they stiffen their resistance and double it because their feelings of bitterness in such a case are greater. In addition, the barbaric practices of Amal's gangs and of the Sixth and Eighth Brigades against the camps' residents, their destructive operations, the wholesale murders, and the execution of prisoners made every individual in the camp determined to defend himself, his home, his family and his revolution until he dies. The fact that Palestinians feel they are defending a just cause remains the foundation for the strength of their steadfastness in the camps of Beirut.

[Question] What is the aim of your present political activity? What countries have you visited, and where will you be going next?

[Answer] The aim of our political activity is to explain the reasons for the barbaric attacks on our camps. We want to explain the dangerous and momentous political consequences of storming the camps and putting an end to the presence of armed Palestinian nationals. This will have a very serious effect on the future of relations between Palestinians and the Lebanese and between Palestinians and Syrians. It will also have a serious effect on relations between the steadfastness and opposition countries. That negative effect on relations will serve the scheme of the imperialist-Zionist enemy because it will split up the steadfastness front which has been opposing imperialist and Zionist schemes in the area. Relations between Palestinians and the Lebanese as well as relations between Palestinians and Syrians are going through a crisis now. Relations between Syria, on the one hand, and Algeria, Democratic Yemen and Libya, on the other, are also going through a crisis. But if, God forbid, our camps should be stormed, the crisis will become entrenched and it will grow. That is why our aim is to apply pressure on all parties so that the attacks on the camps can be stopped. At the same time we are determined to engage in a desperate struggle to defend our camps. We visited Libya where we met with Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi and with Brig Gen Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir. We also talked with Mr 'Abd-al-Salam Jalud. Their attitudes were positive, and their support for our people and our revolution was unqualified. We also visited Algeria where we met with Mr Messaadia. We will also meet with President Chadli Bendjedid. Our fellow Arabs in Algeria support our people and our revolution. They will join us in an attempt to stop the bloodshed. After that we will go to Aden to meet Mr 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and our fellow Arabs in the Yemeni Socialist Party.

[Question] What are your expectations?

[Answer] We hope that the political efforts of Arab nationals, the steadfastness of our people and our fighters in the camps, and also the support we have from Lebanese national forces can stop the attacks on the camps. That would be a first step toward conducting a serious and responsible inquiry into the principles upon which national relations between Palestinians, the Lebanese and the Syrians must be based. But we will never turn over our weapons to anyone. We will continue to keep our weapons regardless of the cost.

[Question] What is Syria's role in what has been going on?

[Answer] The Amal Movement, which has explained what it hoped to achieve by the attack, could not have done what it did unless it had been given a green light by Syria. When we criticize that role, we are making a clear distinction between our objectives and those of deviant forces who want to take advantage of what is going on. We want to correct the mistake; we want to mend national Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese relations because it is the Palestinian cause as well as the forces of Arab steadfastness and national forces in Lebanon that are being targeted by what is happening now.

[Question] The Palestinian Central Council concluded its business in Tunisia by issuing several resolutions, most importantly one ratifying the Amman Agreement. Would you comment on that? What are the effects of such a resolution on convening the same council to revive the Committee on National Unity?

[Answer] It is regrettable indeed to say that while Palestinian fighters and our people in the camps were continuing their heroic opposition to the gruesome military massacre that was taking place [in the camps], the proponents of a deviant political course were becoming more deeply involved in the political massacre that clearly manifested itself in the Husayn-'Arafat agreement and in the steps that followed that agreement. It seems that proponents of that course of action, chiefly 'Arafat, want to use the tragedies of our people and the feelings of despair and frustration generated by the current massacres to justify their capitulatory course and their headlong and more precipitous rush toward new capitulatory steps that would ultimately wipe out our just cause and put an end to it politically. The fact that 'Arafat and his illegitimate central council are going ahead with this step in the wake of Amal's increasingly brutal attacks to strip the Palestinian Revolution of its weapons and wipe out the presence of armed Palestinian nationals in Lebanon is further evidence that Amal, the Lebanese government and their supporters have the same objectives that Yasir 'Arafat has. 'Arafat's aim is to put an end to the armed Palestinian Revolution and find justifications for solutions that will bring that about.

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CSO: 4404/385

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

ARAB LEAGUE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON CAMPS DISCUSSED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 19-25 Jun 85 pp 12-13

[Article by Salih Qallab: "Arab Foreign Ministers Settle the Situation, Avoid Provocative Resolutions; the Story of the Angry Confrontation between al-Qadumi and al-Shar'; the Saudi Delegation Helped Contain the Situation; Algeria Approves the Next Arab Summit; Syria's Position Depends on Future Developments"]

[Text] For the first time in several years the PLO has regained the initiative it had lost. This happened at an Arab League meeting for ministers which was convened in a manner that changed the organization's status and restored to it the Arab legitimacy which had been compromised by the grave events of the past 2 years. Palestinian leaders thus scored a victory they desperately needed because of ongoing international activities that have to do with the Middle East question.

When the PLO first called for that meeting to be convened, many people, including some Palestinian officials, doubted that such a meeting could be held because of Syria's strong opposition to it. It is Syria's opposition that has so far prevented an Arab summit from being convened. Syria's position usually affects the positions of a few other Arab countries like South Yemen and Libya.

It turned out, however, that the war in the camps seemed to have changed previous balances. The magnitude and bitterness of the tragedy forced Arab countries that were opposed to the PLO to respond promptly to that invitation to hold a meeting. Despite their past alliances, the tragedy in the Palestinian camps forced these countries to participate actively in a meeting of the Arab League Council.

Saudi Arabia's Role

One may conclude from what is being said in Arab League circles and in Palestinian circles as well that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia played the most prominent and the most important role in bringing about that significant shift and that step which upset past Arab balances. A Palestinian official affirmed to AL-MAJALLAH that because of the importance King Fahd has attached to the tragedy in the camps, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took advantage of an opportunity to put an end to the state of Arab inertia that was imposed by conditions of Arab polarization and alliances.

That official expressed his belief that the Arab consensus which was orchestrated by Saudi diplomats at the recent meeting of Arab foreign ministers--that

meeting which was held to put an end to the war against Palestinian camps--will be moved to new levels. That consensus will be achieved on the summit level so that Arab solidarity and Arab unity can be realized and Arab prestige on the international scene can be restored.

It seems that the wish to end the state of division among the Arabs induced the Arab foreign ministers to adopt flexible resolutions despite the fact that they all agreed that the tragedy in the camps had to be brought to an end. The foreign ministers agreed that the Arab position this time had to be pragmatic and had to go beyond expressions of regret and emotional appeals.

Circumventing a Confrontation

The Arab ministers' wish to end the division among Arabs was confirmed by the fact that they were able to avoid an angry confrontation between the Palestinian delegation and the Syrian delegation. It's been reported that before walking out of the opening session, Faruq al-Shar', Syria's minister of foreign affairs expressed his objection to the fact that Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian leader was seated at the head table. Mr al-Shar' said he believed the PLO chairman could have taken part in the debates and discussions from the place designated for the Palestinian delegation in the meeting room.

Immediately after al-Shar' finished talking, Faruq al-Qadumi, alias Abu al-Lutf, the chief of the PLO's political department, asked for a chance to make a rebuttal. He reminded those who were assembled for the meeting that Israel's representative at the United Nations was the only one to protest Abu 'Ammar's well-known address to the international organization. Mr al-Qadumi said, "The debate was settled [then] so that the matter could be presented to the participating countries. We are now in the process of going through that experience once again if the Syrian delegation does not withdraw its protest."

Abu al-Lutf spoke in some detail about Palestinian-Syrian relations. He indicated that he had a written speech that he had prepared and intended to deliver at the meeting. "Now, however, after everything that the Syrian minister said I find that I must set aside that speech so I can dot the i's and cross the t's and speak candidly."

The chief of Palestinian diplomats touched upon the instances of tension between Syria and the PLO. He mentioned the massacres at Tall al-Za'tar camp, the dissidents' movement and the war in north Lebanon against the PLO. Mr al-Qadumi accused Damascus of trying to take advantage of the opposition that he and some of his colleagues have expressed toward some official Palestinian policies so as to deal a new blow to the PLO.

Abu al-Lutf defended 'Arafat's leadership of the organization passionately. He said, "Some of my colleagues and I may have objected to some of 'Arafat's positions, but that does not mean that we have become enemies. It does not mean that we will not react to any attempt to infringe upon his leadership which is based on the Palestinian people's wishes and is manifested in legitimate Palestinian organizations."

It seems that Abu 'Ammar, who had stated repeatedly in front of Arab ministers that he wanted results not retaliation--that is, he wanted safety for the camps and not condemnation of this or another party--has responded to the indicators of the new Arab stage and to the desire to launch the Arab condition on a course that would restore the solidarity that has been lost. It was on that basis that he addressed the Syrian foreign minister as the latter was trying to leave the meeting room. 'Arafat told al-Shar', "I would like to ask my brother, Faruq to stay in the meeting room because we want to settle this problem so we can give the Arabs an opportunity to devote themselves to other matters." Therefore, it was on the basis of that conviction that the Palestinian delegation was not interested in a resolution condemning Syria or the Lebanese parties that took part in the fighting against the camps. The Palestinian delegation was interested in having those assembled issue resolutions that would get the Palestinian camps out of their present predicament.

It is on that basis that the Palestinian delegation to the meeting, acting under the direct supervision of Palestinian leaders in Tunisia, did not insist on everything that was stated in the memorandum that had been prepared by the PLO. The delegation complied with Arab wishes that the meeting mark the beginning of a new course that would be based on the unity of the ranks and would be critical of marginal disputes.

It has been confirmed that the attitude of Syria's foreign minister in the meeting was not inflexible at all, even though he did try to provoke the Palestinian delegation more than once. It seems that that has something to do with Syria's wishes not to carry matters to an extreme. It seems that Syria wishes to establish an Arab cover for its future actions in Lebanon.

Palestinian circles are expressing their belief that Damascus will try to impose its own solution for the crisis of Palestinian camps to circumvent an Arab solution according to which the secretary general of the Arab League would visit Syria and Lebanon once again to ascertain that the resolutions adopted by the Arab League Council were being implemented. These resolutions call for a cease fire and an end to the siege around the camps. According to these resolutions humanitarian organizations were to be allowed to enter the camps to save hundreds of wounded people who are facing death every instant.

It is to be mentioned in this regard that the Arab League Council did charge the secretary general with the task of following up on the resolutions that were adopted. The secretary general was asked to go to Damascus and Beirut to ascertain that these resolutions were being implemented. He was asked to submit a report to the foreign ministers at their next meeting which will be held in Tunisia on the 24th of this month.

The Four-Member Committee

AL-MAJALLAH has been informed that some Arab countries wanted to form a four-member committee to follow up on the implementation of these resolutions. But these countries soon abandoned that opinion because they were pressed by expressed wishes to avoid provocation and the creation of new Arab masters. It is to be mentioned here that Syria had intended to boycott that meeting, but then it decided to attend because it did not want to assume responsibility for what happened in the camps. Syria did not want to appear isolated in the face of an Arab consensus on this issue.

Some circles believe that Libya's new position supporting the PLO--this is a position that developed when Libya responded to the organization's invitation to hold this meeting--had a significant effect on Syria's position. Two countries, as well as Algeria and south Yemen, had accepted the invitation and did attend the meeting.

AL-MAJALLAH's sources indicate that while the Arab ministers were considering a reconciliation formula that would smooth over conditions, the Libyan delegate conveyed to the audience at the meeting his country's point of view which states that military aid must be offered to the Palestinian camps. That position was well received by the PLO, and that gave developing relations between the organization and Libya a shot in the arm. That development, which has come in the aftermath of the war in Palestinian camps, is expected to result shortly in a visit to Libya by 'Arafat and an end to the rift of the past years.

The Third Fez Summit

On the other hand, well informed and confidential sources are affirming that the call for a new Arab summit was not unexpected, as some people believe it was. In fact, there were communications in this regard between a number of Arab countries before the Arab League's ministers' meeting was convened. According to these sources, the consensus that was achieved at the meeting of the Arab League Council will also be achieved at the Third Fez Summit that the Kingdom of Morocco and the Yemen Arab Republic have called for. It has been reported that Abu 'Ammar and Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of Fatah's Central Committee, visited Algeria to smooth feelings between Morocco and Algeria to ensure that the Arab Summit Conference would be convened. A senior Palestinian official assured AL-MAJALLAH that the meeting between Bendjedid and the Palestinian delegation was extremely positive and that the Algerian president promised that his country would attend the emergency summit despite the estrangement between his country and al-Rabat.

It is certain that if this summit is convened, its deliberations will go beyond the question of the camps. This summit will go beyond the question of the camps and consider the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and new developments that followed the king of Jordan's recent visit to the United States. There is a prevalent belief in certain diplomatic circles that the next summit will ratify the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. It is also believed that the next summit will give its blessings to Palestinian-Jordanian efforts and will also deal with some of the problems that have to do with the daily lives of Palestinians, including the matter of issuing special passports for Palestinians. The next summit is expected to reach a decision on this matter in accordance with a previous suggestion from the Arab League.

But in spite of all that, questions are still being asked about Syria's position on this summit. Will President al-Asad attend that summit, or will he charge one of his representatives with that task? It is certain, however, that Damascus, which fears isolation from the Arabs, will not stay away from the Arab consensus that will be achieved through the next summit.

SAUDI ARABIA

FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRIP TO TEHRAN DISCUSSED

Interpretations of Trip

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 1-7 Jun 85 pp 9-12

[Article by Fu'ad Matar: "Gulf Peace at the Gates of Mecca If Iran Keeps What It Promised"]

[Text] Perhaps its results are modest and will not become manifest until some time has passed, but the visit of Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, to Tehran, and the discussions he had over 3 days, is still an important step, different and distinct from the steps and initiatives that preceded it, toward extinguishing the fire of the Iraq-Iran war, now nearing completion of its 5th year. If Iran keeps what it promised during the Saudi diplomatic chief's visit, the saying "the peace of the Gulf is standing at the gates of Mecca" has come very close to being reality, not simply optimism based on hope.

In this article, written in Jiddah, Fu'ad Matar, AL-TADAMUN'S editor-in-chief, examines the story of the sudden visit using information he gathered about what happened during it and the results that have been achieved.

On the sidelines of the rounds of fighting in the war between Iraq and Iran, there have occurred some efforts which have spread an atmosphere of optimism of a possible end of this war. However, none of these efforts have reached the stage achieved by the new effort undertaken by the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, on 19-20 May 1985.

Concerning this step, it is now possible to make the following observations:

One: This is the first time that a contact such as this has occurred between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran. It is not likely that this would have happened if King Fahd did not feel a degree of assurance that the commendable effort that the kingdom would undertake to end the war would achieve the progress desired.

It should be noted that Prince Sa'ud went to Tehran completely unexpectedly. The situation seemed to be a sudden mission, not a visit.

It is perhaps one of the few times that the Saudi diplomatic chief has undertaken a visit which has not been announced previously.

Moreover, it should be noted that Prince Sa'ud's visit came immediately after two seemingly surprise visits made to Jiddah by King Husayn and Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan, the head of the Emirates. It seems that both of these--particularly the visit of Shaykh Zayid--had a goal of carrying letters to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from the two parties to the war (Iraq and Iran), their essence being that it was possible to begin efforts that would have results.

Two: Prince Sa'ud's visit came after an Iranian attack of a few weeks earlier did not achieve its goal of isolating Basrah, with Iranian forces suffering heavy casualties, and before an attack about which talk was increasing and spreading. Thus the visit took place after development of objective facts and circumstances, among them being that the more the size of an Iranian defeat increased, the more development of a solution to end the war was resisted. This meant that the addition of this defeat by Iran made it more rash and defiant concerning a new round of fighting, not more inclined to peace.

Among the objective facts and circumstances is that 4 years has been a sufficient period to satisfy the Iranians that their stipulation regarding a change in the Iraqi regime is rejected by the Arab states, with the exceptions of Libya and Syria.

Relative to this, although Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Tehran on the day that Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Jiddah from Khartoum, where he stopped for a few hours on his way back from Burundi, making it seem as if it were a movement in a well-considered assault, nevertheless, Prince Sa'ud's going to Tehran was an unexpected event which no one knew about before it happened. Perhaps that is the reason that this visit was not announced previously.

Three: Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's visit to Tehran was not an intermediary's visit, but rather a visit by someone with a position on the Iraq-Iran war, a position in favor of Iraq's desire to end the war. When one receives the welcome, which he received from Iranian officials, this is an indication that these officials want to change the method of discussion.

Practically, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met with every representative Iranian government figure. These are the figures who represent the contending forces in Iran. President 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of the republic, represents one of these forces; Hashemi Rafsanjani, the president of the consultative assembly, represents another; and Hoseyn Musavi represents a third. It is true that there are other forces which are influential in deciding about war and peace with whom Prince Sa'ud did not meet, but these forces will most certainly be committed to the decision of the organizations whose leaders Prince Sa'ud did meet. These include, mainly, the presidency of the republic, the executive authority and the legislative authority. If the principles

of protocol sanctioned some of the meetings, then these significant meetings took place (specifically, the meeting between Prince Sa'ud and Mr Ahmad Khomeyni, the son of Ayatollah Khomeyni), the simple holding of which is an indication that a matter of far-reaching importance will take place.

Four: Since visits of this type are normally surrounded by high walls of secrecy, one can only, in an effort to put a finger on the realities, contemplate the pictures taken during the visit and the statements delivered by both sides.

The pictures taken of Prince Sa'ud during his meetings with the Iranian officials reflect a condition of relative satisfaction. The faces of Khamene'i, Rafsanjani and Musavi are not frowning. The cameras were able--without doing so surreptitiously--to take a number of pictures of Khamene'i smiling (although he was in a difficult position arising from his sister's political asylum in Iraq with her children, rejoining her husband, Ayatollah Tehrani, who was there in exile) when he received Prince Sa'ud, and a number of pictures of Rafsanjani when he received the Saudi minister.

As for the statements issued by the two sides, the words of which are frequently subjected to detailed analysis to a degree which makes it appear as if they were paragraphs of a report on the visit of some high official to the Soviet Union and discussions with leaders of the Kremlin distributed by the Soviet news agency TASS. The statements issued by the Saudi and Iranian sides were not devoid of some important indications. It is noteworthy that Prince Sa'ud more than once repeated that his discussions with the officials with whom he met in Tehran were "frank, clear and serious." If interpretation is possible, the word "frank" here means that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia thinks that Iran is not right to continue the war, inasmuch as Iraq does not let an opportunity pass without expressing its desire for an end of the war. The word "clear" means that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stands on the side of Iraq from certain fixed points which Prince Sa'ud was intent on mentioning from the first day of his visit to Tehran. He set out for the Iranian officials that there are fixed points of Saudi policy, fixed from the time of (late) King 'Abd-al-'Aziz to that of the current King Fahd Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz "based on the principle of the unity of Muslims and urging them to solidarity, cohesiveness and avoidance of division and disunity."

The word "serious" remains. Prince Sa'ud used it more than once. It might mean that when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia takes on this effort to end the war it is serious about the matter and wants Iran to respond with similar seriousness, so seriousness here covers possible dangers that might happen in the region. Prince Sa'ud's statement to the newspaper AL-RIYAD after his return reflects this: "I discussed with the Iranian officials the critical and sensitive situations in the Gulf, the foremost of which are the calamitous, destructive

war between Iraq and Iran and the relations between Iran and the states of the Cooperation Council, and, thereby, bilateral relations between the kingdom and Iran. I hope that the conversations that took place on these topics are an introduction toward building new relations based on mutual understanding, neighborliness and work for the good of the area and for the security, progress and stability of its people."

Five; Supplementary to the previous observation, with reference to the word "serious," it could be said--from the point of view of interpretation, no more--that Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said to the Iranian officials what he meant, that the time had come to discuss forthwith what follows the war, since 5 years of fighting without any modification in understanding can not be tolerated.

In the same framework, it could be said--from the point of view of interpretation, no more--that Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said to the Iranian officials what he meant, that the Iraq-Iran war has to date cost more, in specie and human life, than the Arab-Israeli wars over 30 years. It might be said that Prince Sa'ud also said that, if Iran is assured that Gulf money, beginning with Saudi money and ending with Omani money, will participate, eventually, in reconstructing Iran, and the war still continues due to the desire of the government of the Ayatollahs, then such participation, for objective reasons and precise calculations, is not possible unless the Gulf financial commitments to the war are changed into commitments to reconstruction. In clearer terms, if Gulf money is to defend a peace agreement between Iraq and Iran, this must be achieved quickly.

Six: If Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal had undertaken this visit earlier, it would perhaps have saved the two warring countries a great deal of attrition. This is true, although conditions did not allow this step to be undertaken in the past because the Iranian mentality, up until the recent two defeats which were inflicted on the Iranian forces, had a degree of callousness that could not be justified. The Kuwaiti foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, was burned by its fire. He undertook a good effort that did not succeed. Then the two defeats happened, encouraging development of currents that called for putting an end to the war. These currents were without an audible voice in the past, then the Iranian government came to the point of giving them more than one glance.

Also, a year ago, the Iranian government performed a maneuver that interrupted any effort toward conciliation on which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was engaged. This maneuver was manifested in Hashemi Rafsanjani, the president of the consultative assembly, expressing a desire that the Saudi government issue an invitation to him to perform the religious rite of the hajj. The kingdom replied that it does not invite anyone to perform the hajj, because those who come are guests of God, not guests of the kingdom. This reversal strained relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Acting on instruction, some Iranian pilgrims embarked on undesirable practices during

the hajj season. And, in a provocative demonstration, some Iranian aircraft tried to penetrate Saudi airspace. The kingdom responded to the planes by shooting down two of them.

In spite of this refusal and Iran's provocation, and in spite of the Iranian government's blocking every good office seeking to end the war, shutting the door in the face of anyone who knocked seeking success for his efforts calling for wisdom and patience, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continued to be active in all possible directions and continued its diplomatic efforts to navigate all oceans.

It might be asked: What did Iran want from these maneuvers? Was it a suggestion that the chief Arab state supporting Iraq act to announce its friendship, or a suggestion that the hajj season is not safe from problems unless Iran desires it, or a suggestion that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the states of the Gulf, will pursue a new policy toward the Iraq-Iran war and that an invitation to Rafsanjani is a means of expressing this?

The answer is that one of these possibilities, all three of them, or perhaps other possibilities of the same type were behind Rafsanjani's expression of a desire that the Saudi government extend an invitation to him.

At the same time, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is not hurrying to extend an invitation to an Iranian official (the foreign minister or any other highly-placed person), put itself in a position ready to respond to an invitation addressed to it by Iran.

It is natural that such an invitation be directed to the foreign minister rather than another official, and this is what happened.

Seven: Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal visited Iran in more than one capacity, though his basic capacity was as foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

As for his other capacities, he is a prominent member of the Committee of Seven which visited the super-powers, including the Soviet Union, seeking development of a solution to end the Iraq-Iran war, in which he was the Arab diplomat who most took on the difficult discussions.

Moreover, he undertook the visit following the biannual conference of Saudi ambassadors, which lasted about a month, at which the topic of greatest interest was the Iraq-Iran war. At this conference Prince Sa'ud heard from the kingdom's ambassadors statements which helped afterwards to crystallize the form of the position which he presented to the Iranian officials.

Prince Sa'ud undertook the visit after the kingdom and the other Gulf states had drawn up their annual budgets, budgets which spread an atmosphere of caution, or rather, apprehension, due to the continuation of the war and its financial drain.

Prince Sa'ud undertook the visit after King Fahd had visited the United States, a new leadership had arisen in the Soviet Union and the atmosphere in the Arab region had become increasingly cloudy.

Might it be said that many Islamic personalities have tried previously, that they have visited Tehran but have not achieved any progress?

Perhaps the answer to this is that when the foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia visits Iran it is one thing, and when Habib Chatti or his successor in the Islamic Conference Organization secretariat general, Pirzada, visits, it is another.

The evidence for this is not only in the form of the reception, but also in the words spoken. Prince Sa'ud is not returning from Tehran weighted down with the lectures given by the Iranian officials to (al-Habib Chatti) when he visits them, nor with the promises upon promises that accompany the lectures in the hope that they will be transmitted to Saudi officials when he returns and meets with them. Likewise, Prince Sa'ud is not returning from Iran bearing the reproof or categorizations applied by Iranian officials to one or another ruler, such as: "So-and-so is an unbeliever," or "So-and-so is an agent of the worldly, secular ones," and so forth.

Prince Sa'ud was given a friendly reception. He received assurances that Iran had come to the point of wanting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to take on its shoulders the business of finding a solution for an end of the war. Since, in the stage following the war, the kingdom will take the lead in reconstructing what the war destroyed, it is necessary to give consideration to its wishes and to harmonize with its efforts, particularly since public opinion in the Gulf generally, in light of the policies of restraint and belt-tightening, has begun to complain about the war and has become extremely fed up with the party which has rejected stopping the war, that is, Iran.

In light of this, what might happen?

More than one thing might happen, including that the Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati might return the visit within a few weeks, and that arrangements might be made to hold a meeting between the head of the Iraqi national assembly, Dr Sa'dun Hamadi, and the head of the Iranian consultative assembly, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani, and that after this preparations might be made for a meeting of a reconciliation between Iraq and Iran in Mecca, in which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would undertake the role previously played by Algeria when it brought about a meeting in Algeria between the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and Saddam Husayn, who was at the time vice-president. Algeria had tried for some time to undertake an effort to preserve the spirit of the Algiers accord, which had been reached under the auspices of the late President Houari Boumedienne.

Its efforts were interrupted after the downing of its foreign minister's airplane, which angered the Iranians, because he was just about to realize a step forward on the road to reaching the solution.

Also, the idea is under investigation, though with some reservations, to demand development of the Committee of Seven into an Arab-Islamic Committee, adding Iran to its membership, especially since this committee originally set out to end the war, not to support Iraq or encourage it to continue the war.

In this regard, it is possible to suppose that the participation in the delegation that accompanied Prince Sa'ud to Tehran of Shaykh Jamil al-Hujaylan, the Saudi ambassador to Paris, means that relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran will from now on be pursued through their respective ambassadors in Paris. This would be similar to the means by which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia pursues relations with the Soviet Union, both of whom have chosen to conduct their relations by means of their respective ambassadors in London. It should be pointed out here that the Saudi and Iranian representations are at the charge d'affaires level, due to the cool nature of the relations between them. It is necessary to pursue these relations, because Prince Sa'ud's 6 hours of talks in Iran were insufficient, especially because half of them were by translation, where the Iranian officials talked and listened through a translator.

Eight: It is noteworthy that Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's visit included a tour of the museums and the Sa'd Abad palace.

It is not clear whether a visit to the palace was included in Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's schedule of activities by Iranian officials or whether the Saudi foreign minister, considering the possibility of being involved in a visit to the graves of the martyrs or to the fountain that seems to pump blood rather than water, suggested that he limit his visit to official talks and a visit to a museum of ancient palace.

No matter which of the two sides was responsible for the idea of a visit to the museum and palace, the visit left an impression that war destroys, but peace preserves an esthetic and cultural legacy for the ages.

The purpose of the visit to the museum and palace was probably to suggest that Prince Sa'ud was on an official visit that included several parts rather than a mission, knowing that he was on a mission, one of far-reaching importance.

It remains to point out that Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's visit to Iran might be an introduction to a new Arab-Iranian language of discussion, and the first mile of a journey of a thousand miles that will end in Arab-Persian peace. This, if Iran is sincere and keeps what it promised.

Even if the results were small, they are very interesting, because this is the first time that a face-to-face meeting such as this has taken place outside of an Islamic conference, a non-aligned conference, or an OPEC conference. It was like a friendly personal talk at an appropriate time. The Iran of today is not the Iran of the past. It is not even the Iran which almost epitomized the fire of the war by virtue of a position in the recent Islamic foreign ministers conference which met in Sanaa, a position which seemed to be positive inside the hall, but which became a negative position immediately upon leaving the hall.

It also remains to point out that rapid comparison of the ceremonies before and after the visit confirm that the visit proved to be relatively relaxed, and made tense nerves relax a little. Here is its importance. It is true that a war such as the Iraq-Iran war cannot be resolved by a meeting or two, or by return of a visit, but it is also true that dropping the paralyzing Iranian conditions is the basis, and that dropping them will facilitate creation of the solution.

After returning to Jiddah, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal revealed that hope is great for a halt for reconsideration, and, following this, for serious consideration of a long truce to facilitate an end to the war. The report that Prince Sa'ud submitted to King Fahd, who was in al-Ta'if, where he had gone from Jiddah, on Tuesday, 21 May 1985, spread this optimism. Optimism also spread that Iran pledged, in the 3 days that followed the end of the visit, to a kind of agreement reached during Prince Sa'ud's talks in Tehran, requiring a radical change, if possible, in the tone of the media.

As long as it is Ramadan, we can only say" "By God, he shall make things easy and it will not be hard for you."

Observations About the Visit

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 1-7 Jun 85 pp 10, 11

[Unattributed article: "Snapshots of the Visit"]

[Text] Reasons for the Lack of Media Interest

The Saudi media dealt with the visit of Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to Tehran in a cautious and reserved manner. Were it not for the impressive and diligent concern evidenced by brother Turki al-Sudayri, the editor-in-chief of the newspaper AL-RIYAD, who published two pages of pictures of the visit, it would have seemed that the visit did not have a good return.

A well-informed Saudi source explained to AL-TADAMUN that the lack of media interest (press and television) in the visit must be traced to fear that a reversal could happen.

When AL-TADAMUN asked the source to expand on this explanation, he replied:

"In a general way, the visit reached agreement on some matters, including a halt of media attacks, although, on its part, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not attack the government of Iran in the way that Iran does. However, this will not mean a ban on comments in line with the kingdom's position on the Iraq-Iran war, even if they do not please Iran.

"In light of the subject of the agreement that was concluded, and the general atmosphere during the 3 days of the visit, media attention seems natural and necessary. We fear lest we reflect this point, and then, immediately or a few days later, something is published from the Iranian side that, by its very nature, clouds the atmosphere and is instrumental in a reversal. In this regard, more than one precedent has been recorded by Iran that is characterized by stridency after a moderating influence, or it says something that breaks up everything.

"In any case," the source concludes, "it is not helpful now to turn the citizens toward the idea that the foreign minister's trip achieved great success, knowing that it did not fail, but had relative success. This would be instrumental in upsetting those citizens who expect reassuring signs from the government that the war, whose effects have begun to be reflected in a fundamental way, is close to an end. The responsibility for the upset is Iran's, if it acts in a manner contrary to the agreement, or at least the understandings concerning it, as is happening."

Why Was a Joint Communique Not Published?

It is worth mentioning that a joint communique was not published for Prince Sa'ud al-Faysals visit and discussions with Iranian officials, though many people were interested in what would appear in such a communique.

The principle of a joint communique is usually to define a position agreed upon or to bind each side to what is contained in the communique.

Did the Saudi side suggest a joint communique? Did the Iranian side plead that there was no need for this?

Or was a joint communique not published because the agreement between the two sides needs the blessing of Ayatollah Khomeyni?

A blessing, moreover, needed for each new event.

Protection of the Meeting from Arms Merchants.

An Arab source in Jiddah said that the Saudi-Iranian meeting needs a great deal of attention and protection.

AL-TADAMUN asked the source: "The idea of 'attention' is that it will help the meeting develop, but what is the goal of 'protection'?"

He answered: "Some Arab and international parties who, it is believed, were surprised by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's visit to Tehran will work to torpedo the meeting, fearful that it will develop."

In further clarification, the source said that some parties are using the war to their benefit, by claiming that they prevent Iranian damage to the Gulf states. It will become clear if this is really the case or merely a means of exploitation and nothing else.

The source also expressed his concern that the Iraq-Iran war had stimulated trade in large and small arms. If--God willing--the war is destined to stop, this trade will stop and the situation of some of the merchants will come to be like that of some of the merchants in the al-Manakh market crisis.

For the Most Part, It Calls for Uncertainty

The issue remains of the sudden reappearance of the kidnapped Saudi diplomat, Mr Husayn Farrash, who was unexpectedly sent back to his country on a private plane accompanied by one security man wearing a steward's uniform. For the most part, this calls for uncertainty.

Crown Prince 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy prime minister, had previously visited Damascus, but Husayn Farrash was not discovered and sent home. Prince Bandar Ibn Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to Washington, and a man of particular skills, visited Damascus, but Husayn Farrash was not discovered and sent home. Then Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, visited Damascus, but Husayn Farrash was not immediately discovered and sent home.

Husayn Farrash was not discovered and sent home immediately, not until the day that Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal returned from his unexpected trip to Iran. There is an aspect of uncertainty here, and its secrets are well-hidden.

Informing Iraq and the Gulf States of the Results

It is worth mentioning that Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, fully informed the ambassadors of Iraq and the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, of the results of his visit to Tehran as soon as he informed King Fahd Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz of the results.

These ambassadors went to Ta'if on Thursday, 23 May 1985 to meet with Prince Sa'ud.

It is noteworthy that Prince Sa'ud received 'Abd-al-Malik al-Yasin, the Iraqi ambassador, first, and informed him of the results, after which he received the ambassadors and charges d'affaires of the states of the Cooperation Council.

On the basis of pictures of the meeting transmitted by Saudi television, the diplomats of the states of the Cooperation Council seem pleased, to a certain degree, with the results.

Prince Sa'ud's meeting with the ambassadors of Iraq and the states of the Cooperation Council is considered the first official meeting between the Saudi foreign minister to take place in al-Ta'if this summer, after the transfer there of the government.

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SAUDI ARABIA

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT PLAN, BUDGET

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic 29 May 85 pp 3-13

[Article: "Homeland and Development: Leaping over Rumors"]

[Text] When AL-YAMAMAH decided to open the dossier of the kingdom's comprehensive development through dialogues with a number of economic and development leaders, represented by their excellencies the ministers, it took into consideration several points which have facilitated the flow of information at the level we had expected when we formulated the methodical framework for this press followup which we expect to continue until we cover all the new features in our ever-developing life, God willing.

We have sought by this to keep pace with all that is happening. If we started this trip with the plan of economic development and with a careful examination of the previous plans, and if we have turned over the pages of those bright plans installation by installation, then we have also passed through all their paths, labyrinths and lighted highways throughout this homeland to reach the threshold of the new Fourth Development Plan about which its engineers said:

"It is the first time we have embarked on a draft plan in which the emphasis is put more on man than on projects. Now that the state has performed its full role in providing care, it is taking within the framework of this plan the role of the examiner who wants to find the result of the lesson he has given the citizen throughout the past 15 years and to discover this citizen's ability to pass this test. This is why the citizens are now urged to leap over all obstacles."

In this report that is now in our hands AL-YAMAMAH has played the role of messenger or spokesman. Featured in this report are their excellencies the ministers of planning, finance, industry, communications, agriculture, municipal affairs, post and telegraph and the heads of the Civil Service Bureau and of the Public Ports Authority, all of whom focus on development. From the dialogue, we have concluded the pertinent points connected with:

- The Fourth Development Plan.
- The budget.

- The impact of the oil and economic upheaval on the progress of the kingdom's development.
- The projects in the current plan and the growth rates.
- The role the plan devotes to developing the Saudi man.

Before embarking on the subject of discussion, AL-YAMAMAH wants to make an important observation, namely that what is said in this discussion does not, from the information angle, represent a regurgitation of an old event. Rather, a prior plan was drawn up by AL-YAMAMAH before embarking on the dialogue with the ministers.

Effects of Oil Upheaval

The ministers have dealt with the dimensions of these effects within two frameworks: the effects on development in general and the effects on partial development pertaining to the plan of each ministry.

We will cite here an evaluation by Hisham Nazir, the minister of planning, on the ramifications of the extremely complex international economic circumstances and their effects on the dimensions of the plan's ambitions.

Our Infra-structures Have Not Been Affected

The minister said: "At times, these circumstances have had a positive impact. International unemployment has enabled the kingdom to obtain technical cadres easily and at a convenient material cost. As for the international interaction that is of primary importance to us in the kingdom, it is embodied in the world's energy consumption which increases our oil production at good prices. We are also interested in the inflation rate in the outside world which is reflected on our imports from other countries. This is an important issue for us in the formative phase because until we can produce enough to meet our needs, we will rely on imports. Fortunately, the negative impact on the oil market developed after we had completed our infrastructures."

Upsurge Years May Return

His excellency the minister of planning does not exclude the possibility of a recurrence of the years of an upsurge of oil prices and attributes his viewpoint to some experts who expect such an upsurge to occur by the year 1990.

The minister said: "They predict the occurrence of a crisis as a result of consumption outstripping the volume of production. I personally expect a gradual improvement in the oil market but I cannot ascertain or deny the occurrence of a crisis. The kingdom's position is excellent because most of the producing countries, including a number of OPEC countries, are now in their final production stages. As for the kingdom, its reserve is vast."

Nobody Denies Effects of Upheaval, But....

As for his excellency the minister of communications, he defined the features of these effects on the basis of his ministry's plan which, he finds, has not been affected by the drop in general revenues. He cited in this regard logical equations concluded from the characteristics of the plans of the Ministry of Communications before and after the upsurge years.

Clarifying this, the minister said: "Nobody can deny or dispute the effects of the oil upheaval. But I want to stress that the plan of the Ministry of Communications, which is a part of the state's plan, has not been at all affected by the drop in the kingdom's oil revenues or by any other financial factor. On the contrary, I can underline the fact that even in the years preceding the flow of monies and the rise in oil prices, the Ministry of Communications' budget was bigger than in the years in which oil predominated, the volume of imports to the kingdom increased and the size of the budget grew."

Road and Communication Projects Were Not Affected by Revenue Factors

Clarifying the factors which protected his ministry's plan from being influenced by any factors outside the framework of the state's plan to establish the infrastructures, one of whose mainstays consists of roads and communications, [Minister] Mansuri added: "It suffices to look at the budget figures in various years to be able to notice what I have just said with utter ease. In recent years, namely 1403, 1404 and 1405 of the Hegira, we notice that the size of the Ministry of Communications' budget ranges from 5-7 billion riyals whereas in 1397-98 of the Hegira, the size of the Ministry of Communications' budget amounted to 5 billion. In 1396-97 of the Hegira, the size of the ministry's budget was 7 billion. This shows that the projects of the Ministry of Communications have not been affected by any factor concerning the rise or drop in the revenues. The reason which helped us obtain these budgets and these privileges is embodied in the belief of the country's top official in roads and communications."

Our Share in New Plan Is 13 Billion

This balanced equation which has governed the development relationship between the Ministry of Communications and the previous development plans whose features his excellency the minister of communications clarified, explaining how these plans have not been affected by whatever is said about the upheaval or about the rise or drop in the national income--this balanced equation also applies to what his excellency said about the road projects in the new plan which has just begun.

Mansuri: "Just as the road projects in the previous plans were not affected by the rise or drop in revenues, the ministry has also not been affected in the Fourth 5-year Plan, which has just begun.

"In this plan, the ministry is required to build 6,248 km whereas 5,000 km were required in the previous plan.

"As for the subsidiary roads which the ministry will build in accordance with the new plan, they consist of 2,349 km of secondary roads, 15,000 km of agricultural roads and 25,900 km of agricultural dirt roads. The total cost of these roads amounts to nearly 13 billion riyals, which constitute the Ministry of Communications' share in the new 5-year plan.

"These projects will be divided as follows:

- "A total of 43 projects for main highways.
- "A total of 81 projects for subsidiary roads.

"The projects have been distributed in the south, the north, the east and the west according to their priority."

Government Started with Itself First

What His Excellency Engineer 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil, the minister of industry and electricity, said acknowledges the presence of the problem referred to. But at the same time, the minister underlined this aspect as testimony to the ability of this country's political and economic leadership to overcome the most difficult tests courageously and to transform the consequences of the international interactions into national gains.

Pointing out this aspect, al-Zamil said:

"The test undergone by the kingdom this year insofar as the budget is concerned has demonstrated great courage and superb ability on the part of the leadership, on the instructions of his majesty the king, in confronting the reality with utter resolution and capability.

"In the current budget, the government in its own numerous spheres tried to confront the problem directly. The administrative expenditures (Sections I and II) used to consume a large part of the budget ranging from 35-40 percent of this budget whereas the important sections concerning economic development, namely Section III, pertaining to maintenance and operations, and Section IV, pertaining to projects, took only 60 percent of the budget.

This is why major decisions have been made in this budget to reduce the spending in Sections I and II, such as spending on furniture, vehicles and some civil service allowances. The state is interested in curtailing administrative expenditures and in channeling the largest part possible toward spending on Sections III and IV. This is in addition to the important decisions made on reducing the amount of subsidies and modifying some prices, such as the electricity tariff. These decisions have established the beginning for a sound economy and a sound direction and have enabled the kingdom to balance its budget, and this is something which major powers are having difficulty achieving."

Emphasis Will Be Put on Existing Plants

What we are quoting here from Engineer al-Zamil on the role which the private sector will achieve in the future also falls within the framework of the new budget. The minister said:

"We will put our emphasis on encouraging the currently existing plants and on enlarging their capacities because enlarging a plant is less costly and is quicker than building a new plant. This, in turn, reduces the costs.

"It is within this visualization that the tendency has developed to curtail the government's role in every sphere so that this role may be replaced as much as possible by the private sector, keeping in mind that the private sector's role in industry has already been a fundamental one."

Al-Zamil expects the private sector to continue to invest actively in industry, especially now that opportunities in the non-production spheres, such as real estate, have begun to diminish.

The dimensions of the private sector's contribution to industry is made evident in the data cited by his excellency the minister of industry.

"These figures speak of the private sector's role. The number of privately-owned plants has risen from 470 plants in 1395 of the Hegira to nearly 1,700 productive plants. Moreover, investment in industrial projects rose from 10 billion riyals in 1395 of the Hegira to nearly 55 billion in 1404 of the Hegira. This is a yardstick of considerable development. I still expect this activity in the industrial sector to continue and to grow deeper in the coming years."

Growth Indicators Are Not Measured by Allocated Funds

The new plan's strategy has focused on how to utilize the infrastructures that have already been built in the previous plans and a large part of which has been completed now.

The private sector is planned to be one of the main sectors benefiting from the facilities that have already been built because these facilities represent the firm base on which a strong economic structure can be built.

In this regard, his excellency the minister of agriculture explained to AL-YAMAMAH how the agricultural upsurge is not affected by the temporary tremors to which the oil sector is exposed due to well-known international reasons, especially since we have already built the infrastructure and have determined with precise and sound scientific means the locations of our resources and lands that support the creation of successful agriculture.

[Minister] Al al-Shaykh said:

"The sums allocated in the budget do not so much constitute a fundamental yardstick as they constitute just an indicator. Insofar as the agricultural

sector is concerned, its growth and development are not measured by just what sums the state has allocated in its plans and budgets. The development and growth are actually measured in production and results.

"At times, a limited sum may be allocated. But if the correct direction is chosen and if the sum is utilized optimally, then it will be greatly productive. The opposite will happen if a large sum is allocated in the absence of a sound methodology.

"As for us in the agricultural sector, I believe that the sums allocated are enough to accomplish the task assigned."

Private Sector's Cohesion with State Programs

According to the explanation offered by his excellency the minister of agriculture, the sums allocated are not fundamental because the development process in the agricultural sector and in other production sectors is also founded on cohesion between the private sector and the government programs.

In this context, Al al-Shaykh explained the manner in which this harmony develops and the mainstays of action within this framework, saying:

"Cohesion exists between the material and moral aid which the state offers the private sector and the ability of this sector to understand the tendencies of the state programs and to comprehend their executive role and its ability to adopt these tendencies with the expertise and readiness at its disposal.

"What I mean is that the agricultural development achieved in the kingdom has been accomplished by the private sector with unprecedented encouragement by the state. The state formulated the program and before doing this, it uncovered the resources available and pointed out to the people concerned how to establish a good and complete agricultural sector. The private sector then proceeded with God's blessing and has achieved the tangible accomplishments that are visible to the citizens."

Growth Activities Exchange Roles

By citing here quotations from an interview by AL-YAMAMAH with his excellency the minister of finance and national economy prior to the issuance of the Fourth Development Plan, we are trying to clarify the clear-cut philosophical relationship between what is implemented in action on the one hand and the future features harbored in the development strategy on the other hand.

In the course of the above-mentioned interview, His Excellency Aba al-Khayl discussed the impact of the oil tremor on the Saudi economy's vitality. Despite the premature timing, it has become evident that the minister's reply carried the same features projected currently. This means that what the ministers project regarding the economy's future is just a conclusion from a clear-cut strategy. His excellency's words carried these signals:

"What has been reiterated regarding these effects is an unscientific and unsound exaggeration because the revenues of any country are subject to rise and decline for changing reasons. This happens to us and to others also.

"If the yardstick for measuring the country's development is the economic growth rate, then it is certain that the kingdom will enjoy a high growth rate of no less than 8 percent per year for many years to come. This is a high percentage when compared with many other countries. This constant growth will occur, God willing, despite the drop in oil production and oil prices.

"Construction projects are not the only means to achieve economic growth. If the construction sector, for example, has gone through a phase of broad expansion, then it is not essential that this sector's activity be taken as a yardstick for measuring growth because the building of construction projects is not development but one of the means of achieving development. If the construction sector were taken as the symbol of growth in a certain phase, then the agricultural or industrial sector can perform the same role in another phase. This means that there are a number of different activities that exchange their roles."

Prominent Features

We have known in advance that any journalistic or information effort, regardless of how far it is stretched, cannot claim to be able to cover all aspects of the work, especially if the work is connected with the development undergone by the kingdom during the previous stages of building, because a limited effort like this cannot dive deep into all aspects. This is perhaps the reason for limiting the topic of these interviews with their excellencies the ministers to the points we have dealt with here. Even though these points undoubtedly constitute prominent landmarks on the path, this limitation has not prevented us from departing at times from the method of approach we adopted in the prelude. We need not justify this departure because it does not touch on the essence of the general strategy of the plans being discussed, even if this requires us--AL-YAMAMAH--to acknowledge the inadequacy of the formula within whose framework we have decided to present the issue. In other words, what AL-YAMAMAH has presented in its separate interviews with their excellencies the ministers often exceeds by far, in terms of a comprehensive approach and of the method of the presentation of each sector, our present attempt to combine the similar features in the previous interviews within the framework of the elements we established for this approach at the start of the issue, if we may call it so.

Within the framework of this presentation, we will open the door for the contributions of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs--contributions that cover the kingdom's vast area, which is nearly 2.4 million square kilometers.

Some of Ministry's Main Projects

[Minister] Al-'Anqari: The projects implemented by the ministry during the previous plans are countless and extend over this vast area to serve

populations ranging in number from less than 50 persons to more than 1 million persons so that the service offered to a village with 50 inhabitants may be equal to the service offered to a city with a population of 1 million.

His majesty the king has instructed on numerous occasions that the state work to convey services to all parts of the kingdom. This may be an opportunity to cite some examples:

- The water, sewerage, drainage and temporary and permanent road asphaltting projects.
- The paving, lighting and tree-planting projects which have been going on since the start of the Third 5-year Plan.
- The conclusion of contracts for sanitation projects in al-Ta'if, al-Dammam and al-Ahsa'.
- Public parks in numerous cities.
- A number of parks and recreation grounds in Riyadh, such as al-Suwaydi park for example.
- The project for the coral peninsula in Jizan. His majesty the king has issued his instructions for the implementation of this project.

As for new projects, his majesty the king issued his instructions for the construction of a complete park in Medina, having noticed that the city lacks such a facility.

Comprehensive scientific studies have also been launched to draw up complete plans for the areas of Jizan, al-Qasim, Medina and al-Ta'if. We have begun the aerial photography and survey projects for Ha'il and al-Qasim while continuing the aerial photography project for Riyadh with the aim of getting complete plans defining the current conditions and providing the landmarks that determine land ownership.

Expropriation of al-Aghwat Quarter in Its Entirety

There are also plans to expropriate land for various purposes, such as the construction of car parks, public parks and children's playgrounds. I would like to underline in particular the plan for expropriating al-Aghwat Quarters, in Medina, in its entirety on the instructions of his majesty the king to implement such projects in the city of the prophet, God's peace and prayers be upon him.

This is in addition to the ordinary projects that are being implemented in all parts of the kingdom to surface and light roads, to build sidewalks and to plant trees along the roads. We have also launched plans to name the streets in Riyadh, Jiddah and Mecca.

Our Living Standard Has Not Been Affected by Current Circumstances

His Excellency Dr Sulayman al-Salim, the minister of trade, added something new to the concept of the impact and ramifications of the changing oil revenue levels. He focuses on the element of the living standard of the Saudi citizen and the extent to which this element is affected by a number of indisputable economic facts, namely:

First, our oil revenues have dropped from 300 billion riyals in the past few years to about 100 billion riyals currently.

Second, whereas we used to produce 10 million barrels a day, we now market only 4 million barrels.

Third, the impact of these facts on our budgets in the past 2 years and in the current year.

Proceeding on the basis of these facts, al-Salim rephrased our question as follows:

Has this had an impact on the living standard of the Saudi citizen? His answer is: Absolutely not.

Natural Criteria of Growth

The minister said: If we examine the Saudi market with the best-known criteria in this regard, namely the criterion of economic growth, the criterion of inflation and the criterion of the unemployment rate, we would find that this market is still doing well and that the growth rate, though dropping below the rates in past years, is still reasonable and compatible with the actual and normal conditions.

What has now happened in the kingdom is that we have begun to return to normal conditions because the so-called upsurge years have ended and matters have begun to return to normal and natural conditions.

Yes, the Saudi market is good. But some of Dr al-Salim's statements need to be clarified to the reader, including the term "sieve" which means that the market will eject unqualified businessmen and merchants who cannot survive and that the new situation will only welcome serious businessmen.

There is also his statement on the need to reduce imports in a manner that develops in the Saudi citizen a sort of consumption flexibility which will, in turn, be reflected in the balance of payments which is now experiencing some deficit as a result of a number of intricate factors, including the remittances made by the workers to the outside world and other invisible expenditures.

The state, according to Dr al-Salim, has taken in the direction of dealing with this issue a step which we consider normal and compatible with the given facts and circumstances of the phase. This step is embodied in the

decision to raise the customs tariff for a number of essential commodities from 4 percent to 7 percent.

Dr al-Salim approaches these observations and others concerning the financial obligations and the payments due emanating from the current circumstances from the angle of the ideal path which the state will follow to tackle their ramifications.

Strength of Saudi Economy

Dr al-Salim added: "We must live with this reality for a time. Yes, there are debts and there have been bouncing checks. But we must not exaggerate because such problems occur in all countries. The kingdom's free economy offers the citizen the opportunity to reexamine and convert his activity. Our social situation, which is dominated by solidarity, cooperation and family ties under the canopy of the Islamic Shari'a, is sure to help those who find it difficult to overcome these problems.

"I would like to point out here that I am very optimistic regarding the future strength of the Saudi economy because all of the kingdom's past plans have focused on diversifying the sources of revenues. The varied Saudi non-oil products rival the world's best products by virtue of the advantage of our free economy and our open markets. We have now begun to export petrochemicals, derived from oil, medium-industry products and small-industry products turned out by the private sector. These growing sectors are the ones that will reduce our reliance on oil. This means that our emphasis in the previous plans on building the infrastructures has begun to produce its fruits at the right time.

"There are other important factors that will help these sectors grow. We live in a central part of the world and are surrounded by countries with a high population density across the Red Sea, in the Gulf and south of the kingdom. With the presence of the infrastructures and with our advanced production level, we can take a prominent position in these markets."

Drop in Growth Rate Does Not Mean Halt in Building

Let us turn to another point and put it into focus so that their excellencies the ministers concerned may deal with it. The interviews contained frank statements that the Fourth Development Plan relies on concepts different from the concepts on which the other plans have relied, even though there is no difference in the strategic harmony because all the plans form a complete fabric.

We have sought to find out for the readers why the concepts of the fourth plan are distinguished from the others, what the features of these concepts are and what their relationship with the growth rates is.

Division of Major Projects

Regarding these points, His Excellency Hisham Nazir, the minister of planning, said:

"In the plan, we expect a negative growth of 2.8 percent in the construction sector. Consequently, labor in this sector must be inevitably reduced. We know that most of the foreign labor is concentrated in the construction sector. But the drop in the building and construction sector's growth rate does not mean that the sector will come to a halt. It rather means that the number of foreign firms connected with this sector will diminish.

"The government is careful to divide the projects into small parts compatible with the capabilities of the Saudi contractors. Moreover, the government requires foreign firms undertaking projects exceeding the capabilities of the Saudi contractors to subcontract no less than 30 percent of the project to Saudi contractors, provided that the Saudi contractor is prepared, that his prices are suitable and that he undertakes the work himself."

Top Priority Projects

The minister of planning proceeded to clarify the distinctive features of this plan for which a sum of 1 trillion riyals has been set for the 5 years it covers, at the rate of 200 billion riyals a year. Even though the idea that immediately occurs to one's mind is that this set limit may mean an advance acknowledgement that the state's general income will be fixed and that it is likely that there will be no further development in the economic situation, his excellency the minister of planning refuted such an idea, pointing out:

Nazir: "First, these figures are subject to change. What the plan sets is the minimum limit. However, we have introduced into this plan the program system, not the project system. Under the canopy of these programs, there are numerous projects that are strategically acceptable. But we have not allocated specific sums for them in the plan, hoping to do so if the situation improves.

"This means that the growth rates spelled out by the plan and the spending volume it has set (1 trillion riyals) are tied to projects included in programs which we call top priority projects. There are other projects which we consider acceptable but which are not priority projects and this is why we have not made allocations for them. If the revenues grow during the implementation of the plan, we will include these projects in the programs and make allocations for them."

Plan's Advantage Lies in Its Flexibility

The minister added: "The advantage of a plan, any plan, lies in its flexibility, or else the plan becomes rigid and breaks down. Something of the sort happened to us in the first plan of 1970. We estimated the spending at 45 billion riyals but after 1970, oil revenues exceeded what we had estimated in the plan and we were able to utilize the new resources rapidly because we had drawn up a flexible plan. The spending amounted to 80 billion riyals."

Industry Is Still at Beginning of Road

His excellency the minister of industry and electricity approached the plan issue from the angle of the industrial and electricity contributions through the allocated budgets. Al-Zamil discussed these contributions in the language of figures, stressing that the industrial accomplishments have begun to materialize, even though we are still at the beginning of the road.

His excellency believes that a fundamental material role is hoped for from industry and that our responsibility is to enhance its contribution to the national economy. The minister defined the accomplishments within the framework of the rates he cited.

Desired Rate of 15 Percent

Al-Zamil: "Four years ago, the national industry contributed 6 percent to the gross national product. This contribution amounts to 9 percent this year. Our target is to have this contribution rise to 15 percent by the end of the current 5-year plan. I believe that this is an ambitious goal, but one that is also possible."

Concerted Electricity Program in Budget

As for the kingdom's electricity sector, al-Zamil pointed out that this year's budget includes a concerted program that rises to the level of the major aspirations which the state attaches to this sector. But because the kingdom is very much like a small continent in terms of area, the electricity projects are being implemented in phases and in a concentrated manner.

Most Important Focal Projects

Al-Zamil: "One of the plan's priorities calls for focusing this year on the electricity projects in Ha'il where there is a project to build a major center which we hope will be completed this year so that the service may be supplied to the neighboring villages.

"The emphasis will also be put on supplying the service to the areas around Tabuk and on Wadi al-Dawasir project which will cover a dear part of the homeland--a part that has lacked electricity service for a long time. This project is scheduled to replace a number of small power plants operating in the area.

There is another very important project which will link the central and eastern provinces and will supply the central province with a large volume of electricity, a volume exceeding 1,000 megawatts a year, by way of a central plant which will be built on the eastern coast.

"There are electricity projects in the south which we will try to complete this year. These are among the most important projects because they will

have a major impact on society. One of them is the Jabal Fifa project. His majesty the king has issued instructions stressing the need to devote attention to these areas and to build a central project that supplies services to all the villages in the mountain."

Highest Electricity Rate in Arab Countries

From the facts clarified by His Excellency al-Zamil regarding accomplishments in the electricity field, we emerge with the conclusion that if we had not inherited an electricity situation embodied in the small companies scattered here and there, we would now be on the threshold of sufficiency in electrical energy. We must add to that situation the elements of excess and waste in the consumption of energy which is being used wastefully and in underdeveloped ways in homes. When we learn that industrial consumption in the western and central provinces amounts to no more than 7 percent of the nearly 13,000 megawatts of electricity now available to the kingdom, we realize the dimensions of this problem of waste. In the eastern province, the industrial consumption rises to 40 percent due to the presence of al-Jubayl and ARAMCO.

The volume of the electricity available is made clear by these figures which have been cited by His Excellency al-Zamil:

"The total energy volume available currently is nearly 13,000 megawatts. However, this figure may not mean anything to some people until they realize its dimensions when we compare it with some other countries.

"If we take a country like South Korea, for example, which has a population of 36 million and an advanced industry, we find that the energy available to this country does not exceed 12,000 megawatts. Moreover, the kingdom surpasses any Arab country in the sphere of electric energy.

"All this has been achieved through the successful experience of unifying the kingdom's electricity sources which has actually led to establishing electricity systems comparable with the systems existing in the advanced countries. The experience has especially proven its efficiency in the eastern, central and western provinces. As for the southern and northern provinces, they have not seen this unification of sources yet because the populated areas are scattered and have continued to get their electricity from the existing small companies."

Nine Million Persons To Receive Service

As for the details of the Fourth Development Plan concerning the new electricity projects and the areas likely to be covered by these projects, his excellency the minister of industry and electricity added the following:

"We have an ambitious plan that seeks to convey the service to nearly 90 percent of the kingdom's population by modernizing the service offered to nearly 600,000 subscribers who represent a large percentage of the citizens. The service is now supplied to 1.5 million subscribers, a number which will thus rise to 2.1 million subscribers. By using the criteria established

in the plan, nearly 9 million citizens will receive the service by the end of the plan."

Total of 15.8 Billion

His Excellency al-'Anqari made an important addition regarding the budgets and figures allocated for each ministry within the framework of the new plan. Despite what the figure of 15.8 billion, which is the figure allocated for his ministry for the current year, means to us, al-'Anqari said in comment:

"In principle, no figure can be considered sufficient in light of the ambitions we aspire to achieve. The picture might become clear when we learn that his majesty the king has agreed at times to increase what has been allocated for us in the budget when the need has arisen. His majesty has done this out of his eagerness to provide the services and facilities to all parts of the kingdom. Generally, the allocation of funds is not enough by itself. We must have the technical and manpower capabilities to implement the projects. I am confident of continuation of the support which the ministry receives from his majesty the king and from his loyal crown prince.

"When speaking of the accomplishments achieved, we find that they have surpassed the appropriations allocated for them in the Third Development Plan."

Clarifying this, His Excellency al-'Anqari pointed out that the objective of the ministry's projects in the third plan was to complete and build more infrastructures and to enhance the efficiency of the performance in supplying the services to the citizens in the kingdom's cities and villages. But the sublime royal instructions concerning the need to speed up the implementation of those projects and the support which his majesty, may God keep him, gave the ministry enabled us to surpass the sum allocated fundamentally and to implement 1,130 projects during the 5 years of the third plan.

From 48 to 105 Billion

"To put it in greater detail, the sum allocated fundamentally was 48.5 billion riyals whereas the sums actually spent amounted to 105 billion riyals, i.e., at a rate of 240 percent. This means that the ministry implemented, or rather exceeded, its full share of the Third 5-year Plan by more than 55 billion riyals. The method which the ministry employs in its dealing with the various parts of the kingdom was to divide them in planning terms into five provinces, namely the eastern, central, western, northern and southern provinces. Each province got its allocated share."

Need for Phased Implementation

It seems that the geographic problem embodied in the kingdom's vast area casts its shadows on all the executive aspects of the development activity. We noticed from the above that all their excellencies the ministers have

touched on this issue to offer some clarifications in response to the urgent demands made by the citizens at times for certain services which must go through phases before they reach them.

Here, His Excellency Dr 'Alawi Darwish Kayyal, the minister of post, telegraph and telephone, reviews the well-known circumstances concerning the characteristics of the phase of implementing the telephone projects for some villages.

More Than 5,000 Villages in Kingdom

Dr 'Alawi: "Our country is a country with a vast area and has more than 5,000 villages. With such an area and this number of villages, we must follow the rule of gradualism in conveying the service to every city and village within several years. Even in the advanced countries that have preceded us in this regard by an entire century, we find that many of their villages lack telephone service. But the development here is taking its course and from time to time, the service is introduced into more villages."

Total of 1.2 Million Telephones

When Dr 'Alawi uses the language of figures regarding the telephone lines existing in the kingdom, we find that the need for any justification is absolutely eliminated, as demonstrated by the following statistics cited by his excellency:

By the end of the Third Development Plan, the capacity of the telephone exchanges existing in all parts of the kingdom amounted to 1.2 million telephone lines serving 920,000 subscribers in 300 cities and villages. The number of telephone calls going out of the kingdom exceeds 122,000 calls a day. Moreover, the capacity of the kingdom's mobile telephone system amounts to 19,000 lines serving 35 cities, with the number of subscribers amounting so far to nearly 8,000 subscribers.

As for postal services, the statistical data issued by the ministry in 1402-1403 of the Hegira shows that the volume of all categories of the postal service emanating from and coming into the kingdom amounted to 643 million postal articles compared to 518 million articles in 1402 of the Hegira, i.e., an increase of 24 percent. By comparing the volume of the postal service in 1403 of the Hegira with the similar service in 1395 of the Hegira when 147 million postal articles were involved, we find that the rate of increase amounted to 335 percent in those 9 years.

These rates are high when compared with the international growth rates in the postal services and prove how high the growth rates are in all sectors of the kingdom. It is well known that the kingdom's postal network covers 4,000 cities, villages and hamlets and that the area of this service is expanding gradually, with new villages and areas added. As for the service's qualitative development, it is embodied in the construction of the kingdom's specialized postal complexes and centers, built in accordance with international standards, and in the introduction of new services to these complexes and centers, such as the super-postal service which was put into operation

more than a year ago and the electronic postal service which will be put into operation in the near future.

Development Is Ongoing Process That Is Not Limited by Plan

His Excellency Hisham Nazir, the minister of planning, has an opinion on the development process which he cited on the occasion of discussing electricity in the kingdom. Even though he believes that the 10 million people who receive the electricity service at present constitute a large part of the population, he said:

"Why do we assume that development is tied to the fourth plan or the third plan? Development is a process that goes on forever, meaning that when we reach the last group to whom electricity needs to be conveyed, we find that we need to renew the machinery and to develop the service to the first group to receive electricity.

"Thus, the process is an ongoing process that is not tied to the 5 years constituting the lifespan of any plan. These years are tantamount to a program within a long-range government strategy whose objective is to educate every citizen, to supply every citizen with all the services, including electricity, water, telephones, and health services, and to make a job available to every citizen. To achieve these goals, many years are needed."

Wheat Leaps from 1 Percent to Surplus

The language of figures again faces us insofar as the agricultural sector's production is concerned. If the kingdom's economic activities exchange their roles, then we expect the agricultural sector, having prepared itself through the infrastructure that has been built and through the strong boosts it has received from the state programs and plans, to occupy a high position among the activities, especially since His Excellency Dr 'Abd-al-Rahman Al al-Shaykh, the minister of agriculture, reaffirmed in his interview with AL-YAMAMAH that the state will continue to provide the subsidy it advances for the cultivation of wheat in the kingdom in the wake of the new indicators concerning this crop which holds a strategic position. His Excellency Al al-Shaykh presented the following facts as a prominent and decisive feature of the successes achieved by this sector through the emphasis it received from the previous plans, an emphasis whose continuation the minister has reaffirmed.

Al al-Shaykh chose one of the important symbols as a living example of the agricultural upsurge, namely the wheat sector. Eight years ago, only 3,000 tons of wheat representing just 1 percent of the country's need were produced whereas we have now reached the phase when production exceeds the local need and when we have a surplus for exportation.

Integrated Nature of Agriculture

The minister of agriculture said: "The point I want to stress is that the development of the wheat sector, important as it is, has not taken

place at the expense of other agricultural sectors. Agricultural development is proceeding in a balanced and integrated fashion, with each part complementing the other. If the agricultural development were confined to wheat, we would not have a surplus of poultry, eggs, vegetables, dairy products and their derivatives and good and growing livestock resources which will soon reach, even surpass, the phase of self-sufficiency.

"But wheat has become visible to all as a sector that is developing rapidly for reasons that are clear to us, including the fact that the cultivation of wheat has begun to spread over vast and visible areas and the fact that the wheat sector was lagging behind in the past when compared with the other sectors. As for the other production projects, such as chicken, vegetable and dairy farms, they exist in abundance but people may not see them because they are concentrated in certain areas.

"As for the surplus, I believe that the methods followed for the other crops will also be applied to wheat. Wheat is a commodity in demand in all the world markets because it represents bread, the essential and indispensable food staple. The kingdom will have no difficulty marketing its wheat surplus to a sister Arab country."

Road Network

If achievement of the aspiration, or part thereof, passes through this careful integration of the development plans which proceed according to a clear-cut strategic visualization, then this integration has found a textural support embodied in interconnected road networks which have shortened both time and distance between the production and consumption sites. We recall on this occasion the statement of neutral observers who described the kingdom's development activity, saying: "The volume of the sands and the mountains moved in the kingdom to build long highways is many hundred times more than the volume gathered to build the pyramids."

His Excellency Husayn Mansuri, the minister of communications, reviewed for AL-YAMAMAH the story of this trip through the previous plans until we achieved nearly 80 percent of the kingdom's need for road networks by the end of the third plan.

Total of 22,000 Asphalted Kilometers

The minister has said: "In 1373 of the Hegira, the year in which the Saudi state was formed and the ministries were established, there were no more than 227 km of paved roads in the kingdom consisting of a two-lane highway between Mecca and Jiddah, a highway between Mecca and 'Arafat and the airport-al-Hawiyah highway in al-Ta'if. Ten years later, i.e., in 1382, the total length of paved highways amounted to 3,420 km, including the Riyadh-Hejaz highway of which only one part was finished, namely the part linking Riyadh with Murrat. Construction of the Riyadh-al-Dammam highway, the Medina-Tabuk highway and al-Ta'if-al-Jubayl highway was also started.

"In 1383 of the Hegira, the ministry began to formulate a plan for building roads on a scientific basis and in accordance with well-studied designs.

Construction actually started at that time. During the first plan, extending from 1390-95 of the Hegira, a total of 3,730 km were built. In the second plan, nearly 9,500 km of roads were built. It should be noticed that the figure tripled. During the third plan, which ended in the past Jumada al-Akhirah, a total of 8,000 km were built, bringing the total length of paved roads by the end of the third plan to 22,000 km.

"In the new plan which begins now, the Ministry of Communications is required to build 6,248 km of paved roads, keeping in mind that this figure is enough to answer what is being raised regarding the possibility that the road projects will be affected by the drop in revenues or by other factors. Moreover, we will build 2,349 km of subsidiary roads, 15,000 km of agricultural roads and 25,000 km of agricultural dirt roads. The estimated cost for the main roads is 8,326,000,000 riyals. The cost of the agricultural roads will exceed 2 billion riyals, with the total cost amounting to nearly 13 billion riyals constituting the share of the Ministry of Communications in the fourth plan."

Four Percent Annual Growth

The space available to us here may not give us the opportunity to detail all the particulars of the accomplishment which has covered all aspects of the life of the Saudi citizen and the resident and has even been extended to our brothers in their homes, wherever they may be. But as for what is expected regarding our new plan and its details, we have relied on the memory of His Excellency Hisham Nazir, the minister of planning, to give us a brief idea of the main projects included in the new plan.

Nazir: "We expect to put eight water desalination plants into full operation, to begin production in the gold mines, to increase agricultural production and to double the storage capacity of the grain silos to reach 1.8 million tons. We also expect to begin the operation of 5 major petrochemical plants, with the number of producing plants thus rising to 13, to complete the power distribution networks to serve 827,000 new subscribers, to have nearly 60 billion riyals advanced by the various funds to individuals and establishments, to increase the length of the network of various kinds of roads to more than 115,000 km, to add 550,000 lines to the telephone network and to fill nearly 100,000 housing units that are currently vacant. These are simple examples of the expected economic activity, all of which will generate an annual average growth of 4 percent and an average growth of 2.9 percent in the non-oil sector."

AL-YAMAMAH: "AL-YAMAMAH sought to obtain this information in its interviews with the ministers in order to correct some concepts expressed recently regarding the so-called effects of the oil slump on the kingdom's economy and construction activity. These concepts have, by necessity, included the administrative and practical activity, especially since new decrees and regulations directly connected with this activity were simultaneously announced with our new strategic plan, along with the features that distinguish it from the past plans."

Are these administrative decrees and regulations connected with the developments in the Saudi economy, or are they founded on bases different from what some have visualized as the first signs of the extremely strong impact of the oil tremor on us because the civil service sector is the largest productive sector in terms of the manpower it employs and, consequently, can no phenomenon spreading or erupting in the economy be curtailed without controlling this sector?

Turki al-Khalid al-Sudayri, the head of the Civil Service Bureau, establishes the distinguishing marks of this equation. He finds that the austerity measures taken insofar as the state employees are concerned must not be linked in the people's mind to the new economic conditions because they are decisions made on a different date and regulations adopted before this year, even though the sudden announcement of the decrees and regulations has made it permissible to some people to make this linkage.

Curtailling Job Benefits

His Excellency al-Sudayri said: "I stress that the major part of the regulations adopted has no connection with what is being said about the economic or financial conditions, as proven by the fact that there had been administrative movement before any feeling of financial or other problems developed.

"For example, we will cite the issue of establishing equality between civil servants by abolishing the incentives given to some and not to others. Numerous regulations had been taken as early as 1398 of the Hegira, especially in connection with the housing allowances and other allowances. They were also followed by a law issued with the increase in salaries given in 1401 of the Hegira. These are measures that have been intended to apply the civil service law to all the workers in the state organizations and, consequently, to eliminate the privileges given to certain groups by way of allowances or of financial awards.

"I have cited these examples to demonstrate that the tendency has actually been that of curtailing the benefits given to certain employees just because they belong to certain agencies as long as all the civil servants are in the service of the state."

There Are No Longer Remote Hardship Areas

His Excellency al-Sudayri cited for AL-YAMAMAH numerous examples and justifications which motivated the state to adopt the decisions to review the expenditures and the financial procedures followed, including the reduction of the so-called remote hardship areas allowance by 50 percent, i.e., cutting this allowance by half. In this regard, his excellency believes that the remote areas by the old criteria are no longer remote since the construction of roads, schools, hospitals and other main services in these areas.

Therefore, al-Sudayri views all these measures from their reform aspect and not from the angle of austerity, as some other people view them. He said:

"It is my belief that the objective of these measures is a reform objective that seeks to establish equality between the civil servants and to deal with situations that have begun to change as a result of the change in the living conditions in the various areas. I see the administrative reform aspect. Many of these measures were actually taken before the onset of the new economic situation whose dimensions some people are striving hard to interpret. Those who wish to interpret the measures in light of the fact that the decree was issued in 1405 of the Hegira are entitled to do so. However, if these people familiarize themselves with the measures taken earlier, they would find that the issue had been decided earlier."

How Ports Have Prepared Themselves

To complete the various aspects of the discussion concerning the renaissance procession, whose various sectors we have tried to cover in this report, we must touch, even if only in passing, on our main commercial outlets, meaning the kingdom's Public Ports Authority.

It is our belief that the reader will not find it difficult to recognize the lifeline between these outlets and the internal construction and production activity.

The relationship is a production relationship, especially since the coming phase has been characterized by their excellencies the ministers as the phase in which the production surpluses, both industrial and agricultural, will meet. This gives the impression that new duties will be thrown on the shoulders of these ports which, as we all know, have played in the previous phases the role of the blood-supplying arteries. If we have prepared ourselves for a new role in the international commercial sphere--a role embodied in diverse exports--then it will be beneficial in this regard to shed some light on the capabilities of these ports to perform this role.

This aspect was explained to AL-YAMAMAH by Dr Fayiz Badr, the head of the Public Ports Authority, who said:

"When the Public Ports Authority was founded in 1396 of the Hegira, the kingdom's commercial ports contained 37 piers, meaning that the kingdom could not accommodate more than 37 ships simultaneously.

"The number has now reached 121 piers and the kingdom's imports have reached 40.3 million tons a year whereas they did not exceed 9.8 million tons a year in the past. The kingdom's main ports are the Jiddah Islamic Port, the Yanbu' Commercial Port, the King Fahd Industrial Port, Jizan Port, King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Port in al-Dammam, al-Jubayl Commercial Port and King Fahd Industrial Port in al-Jubayl. These ports are enough, both to import what the kingdom needs and to export the kingdom's products. The biggest proof of this is that the ships' waiting time in the kingdom's ports has now dropped to zero."

We Seek Self-financing in Ports

Dr al-Fayiz: "The authority always strives to achieve one of its main objectives, namely self-financing for the ports, and has made enormous steps in this regard which can be summed up in the following:

"First, the subsidy advanced by the state for the operation of the ports dropped to just 87 million riyals last year, a sum which represents only 8 percent of the subsidy received by the authority when first established, despite the increase in the volume of the goods handled.

"Second, the direct subsidy for handling each ton of wheat has dropped from 59 riyals per ton in 1397-98 of the Hegira to 2 riyals only last year.

"The rate of revenues to expenditures rose from 26 percent in 1397-98 of the Hegira to 94 percent last year even though the fees and fares have not changed.

"Fourth, the estimates of the subsidy for operating the ports in the first 4 years amounted to 7,852,000,000 riyals to handle 131 million tons of goods whereas the ports actually needed only 25 percent of this sum even though the volume of goods handled exceeded the expectations by 13 percent."

Conclusion

We hope that we have been successful in conveying the true picture of the features of the kingdom's industrial, agricultural and service renaissance. This, and nothing else, has been our motive and let nobody think that we are defending anything. In its developmental renaissance and its ambitious strategy, the kingdom is, according to the people concerned, an open page which all people at home and abroad can read.

Moreover, we know how to employ our right to criticism when needed, as attested by the people we have interviewed themselves.

This is one aspect. As for the other conclusion, it is the one we have concluded from the complete visualizations of the people concerned regarding the features of the coming phase:

First, this phase is a precise and sensitive phase because it is a transitional phase whose responsibilities and dimensions need to be tackled with corresponding accuracy.

Second, the state has completed construction of the infrastructures which will constitute a firm base for the coming phase whose framework has been defined by the long-range strategy. Therefore, the impact that the current economic circumstances have had on us has been a transient impact that does not touch the essence.

New support elements, basically industrial but also including agricultural, investment and mining elements, have entered the production procession and

will add quantitatively to the production in such a manner as to make up for any likely drop in the main revenues from oil.

Fourth, new administrative and spending formulas have been introduced to deal with these given facts in a balanced manner, whether by direct austerity or by enlightenment that leads to rationalization.

Snaps

[Boxes on pp 6 and 7] Hisham Nazir: "The kingdom's population is relatively young. It is a young society and this is why hope arises for productive and fruitful work in the future because such work depends on the youth fundamentally.

"I believe that the state has done a lot for youth, not just in the athletic or cultural areas but through various forms of offerings. For whom are the schools, the training centers and the universities? They are all for the youth. I don't believe that there is a country in the world other than the kingdom where the government gives a graduating youth an award to begin his life, a loan to build his house and another loan to get married. Therefore, the time has come for the kingdom's youth to offer the fruits of this care given them by the government.

"There are two sets of negative features generated by development in the Saudi citizen. One is connected with lack of experience and the other with enthusiasm. There is a third set connected with personal conduct. Some people have come to think that the blessing which God has given us is a license to engage in varied practices or to abandon the values that constitute a part of our existence. A blessing must be received with gratitude and not with misbehavior. For example, many people have exerted great efforts to accumulate material wealth and have neglected the direct supervision of their children. We have said a lot about leaving the upbringing of children to nannies and maids. However, we must refrain from charging this personal misconduct to the development account."

[Box on Page 8] 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil: "There is no orientation like the kingdom's toward the petrochemical and fertilizer industries because the kingdom possesses a vast reserve of raw materials. On the other hand, we find that the United States and Europe, and even Japan, have developed these industries even though they do not possess the volume of reserves we possess. Therefore, the kingdom is more capable of such development. It is fundamental that we exploit these resources because anything in an opposite direction is against future generations.

"There are attempts to oppose the development of this industry in the kingdom. We, in our turn, confront these attempts by exerting efforts to prevent the levying of higher fees than the already existing ones on the Saudi products and to enable the kingdom to gain some advantages in accordance with the system of preferential treatment."

[Box on Page 9] Husayn Mansuri: "Before starting to plan any road, fundamental information on important elements, such as the volume of rain in creeks

and valleys and the volume, height and speed of the flood water that passes through them, must be gathered by the ministry in order that it may take the necessary precautions. Regrettably, such statistics are unavailable.

"In the south in particular, we try to get this information from the inhabitants of the areas in which we will build roads, especially from old people. You can imagine the outcome we emerge with regarding this important information.

"Maintenance is the biggest problem. Large capital has been invested in this sector--roads--and it is unreasonable to let this investment go to waste or be lost. If roads are not maintained, they become damaged and if they are damaged, that is their end. The problem of the roads does not end with its construction because constructing it is easy. The problem lies in maintaining roads and in constantly securing the means of safety."

[Boxes on pp 12 and 13] Sulayman al-Salim: "We are people who have engaged in trade throughout our history. We used to rely on commerce and our forefathers went to other countries and marketed camels in Egypt and elsewhere. By relying on oil, we have become a little lazy. There was no oil export problem when there was demand. But when the demand dropped and we tried to export petrochemicals, we encountered amazing restrictions from the world under various names.

"We have found out that the world of commerce is different from what we imagined it to be when we were just oil exporters.

"I believe that we are returning now to what we used to be before the emergence of oil when we strove and crossed the desert with our camels to sell them in Egypt and Syria and when we went abroad to secure our modest needs. We have begun to enter the world of commerce as it is and we have realized the problems and have begun to work to overcome them from a position of strength.

"As soon as the profit incentive sought by the investment capital is curtailed, the capabilities that must be encouraged are idled. We in the kingdom encourage this incentive. Even the PRC has regained its belief in the importance of individual incentive and the free economy, has embarked on measures concerning agriculture, trade and industry and has begun to open the doors of the outside world to its citizens. The PRC has been preceded in this regard by another Communist country, namely Hungary which is distinguished in this connection from other Communist countries. The policy which the kingdom has followed for a long time is the policy of not letting the government perform the activities which the private sector can perform but to give this sector the incentives to perform these activities."

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CSO: 4404/371

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

PRESIDENTIAL DECREES ON VARIOUS APPOINTMENTS

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Apr 85 p 1

[Text] Earthquake Reconstruction Chairman

Yesterday the president of the republic issued Decree No 7 of 1985 appointing a chairman of the Supreme Council for the Reconstruction of Areas Damaged by the Earthquake. It stipulated after the preamble:

Article 1. Engr 'Abdallah Husayn al-Kurshumi, minister of public works, is hereby appointed chairman of the Supreme Council for the Reconstruction of Areas Damaged by the Earthquake.

Article 2. This decree shall be put into effect as of the date of issuance and shall be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued at the presidential palace in Sanaa on 13 Rajab 1405, which falls on 3 April 1985:

Col 'Abdallah Salin
President of the Republic
General Commander of the Armed Forces
Secretary General of the General Popular Conference

Petroleum, Mineral Resources Council

Presidential Decree No 26 of 1985 was also issued appointing two members to the Supreme Council for Petroleum and Minerals. It stipulated after the preamble:

Article 1. The following two brothers are appointed to the Supreme Council for Petroleum and Mineral Resources:

1. Engr Muhammad Ahmad al-Junayd, governor of the Central Bank.
2. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Samawi, director of the board of al-Yamani Bank for Building and Reconstruction.

Article 2. This decree shall be put into effect as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued at the presidential palace in Sanaa on 13 Rajab 1405, which falls on 3 April 1985:

Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih
President of the Republic
General Commander of the Armed Forces
Secretary General of the General Popular Conference

Tax Department

Presidential Decree No 27 of 1985 was also issued appointing a director and a deputy director of the Tax Department. It stipulated after the preamble:

Article 1. 'Abdallah Muhsin al-Jabri is hereby appointed director of the Tax Department.

Article 2. Ahmad Ahmad al-Wasi'i is hereby appointed deputy director of the Tax Department.

Article 3. This decree shall be put into effect as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued at the presidential palace in Sanaa on 13 Rajab 1405, which falls on 3 April 1985:

Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih
President of the Republic
General Commander of the Armed Forces
Secretary General of the Popular Conference

"Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani
Prime Minister, Member of the Permanent Committee

Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajib
Minister of Finance

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CSO: 4404/338

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN ON SUPPLY, PRICE VIOLATIONS

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Apr 85 p 3

[Article by Ahmad Yahya al-Dulaymi: "Random Price Violations Uncovered by Supply Campaign"]

[Text] There has been much talk recently about the sudden jump in prices of all commercial commodities on the Yemeni markets, with or without justification, even of those commodities that are not subject to the dollar's fluctuation, that is, the commodities produced locally. Citizen anger has intensified and there is much talk about a sudden jump, especially by low-income people. This has prompted the political leadership, represented by the president, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, general commander of the armed forces and secretary general of the General Popular Conference, to issue quick instructions to adopt a broad campaign to put a stop to merchant greed and to stabilize prices. We published a while back a brief report on the beginning of this campaign waged by the Ministry of Supply and Trade and its offices in a number of governorates, in addition to the offices of the prosecutor general in the governorates. This campaign has uncovered a number of random violations subject to the whims of some merchants who tried to take advantage of the fluctuation in world prices, intentionally or unintentionally, thus causing instability and confusion among the citizens.

The strange thing is that this astronomical rise in prices included all commodities, even those goods imported in past years and which were not at all affected by the rise or drop in the rate of the dollar. This prompted the government to adopt such a campaign and to urge the citizens to question such a strange phenomenon. As part of the series of investigative reporting that AL-THAWRAH has been undertaking, it met with officials of the competent government agencies as well as with a number of Chamber of Commerce members to explore the cause of the price rise.

Preventive Measures

We began the dialogue with Fu'ad Qa'id Muhammad, minister of supply and trade, who talked first about the results of the campaign undertaken by the Ministry of Supply in cooperation with the general prosecutor for the purpose of establishing the reasons that led to this sudden astronomical rise in prices through this campaign and the results of the investigations.

The minister said: "The Ministry of Supply and Trade, with the help of the competent agencies, undertook an initial limited preventive measure with the aim of putting a stop to the rise in prices. This measure included the governorates of Sanaa, Ta'izz, al-Hudaydah, Ibb, Dhamar and Hajjah. this campaign was necessary for the following reasons:

1. To put a stop to the intentional withholding of goods from the market for the purpose of price manipulation or to the practice of selling the full shipment of imported goods to another merchant withholds the goods, thus reaping huge profits, as was the case with tea in particular.
2. To augment incomes through random price hikes with the view that the government and its agencies would not pursue an investigation.
3. To stop the bitter attempts at discrediting the concept of rationalization. Investigations revealed that violations are committed throughout the business community and by the various import, wholesale, retail and other merchants.

The general prosecution assumed responsibility for the investigation. Reports revealed grave violations and irresponsible practices. The ministry hopes this campaign will be a deterrent although it considers it an initial campaign. We hope that it will inspire merchants to forego their attempts to realize quick illegal gains by exploiting administrative loopholes through the withholding of goods from the market and price manipulation.

Two Reasons

About the reasons for the rising prices, the Minister of Supply said there were several reasons for that, including:

- A. Fluctuations in the rate of the dollar.
- B. Higher prices for petroleum products.

With regard to the first reason, the fact is that there are fluctuations in the rate of exchange. However, the price hikes went beyond the maximum mathematical limits of these fluctuations and the merchants did not take into account the fact that most commodities come from countries suffering from a severe drop in the value of their currencies against the dollar, something not reflected in the price levels of commodities imported from these countries to our country.

With regard to fuel prices, the competent authorities have made it clear that the government is shouldering a significant part of the rate of increase in the prices of those commodities arising from fluctuations of the dollar rate of exchange.

Merchants Try To Double Their Trade at a Frenzied Rate

It is well known that the profit margin for some commodities is over 15 percent. However, some have tried to double this margin on the pretext of protecting themselves against the dangers of rate-of-exchange fluctuations or

against the possibilities of a slow turnover of inventory. These attempts are more obvious, particularly in the import sector or in the five unregulated commodities.

Experience Assessment

We asked brother Fu'ad Qa'id Muhammad about the process of regulating foreign imports, especially in view of the Chamber of Commerce's participation in regulating certain goods. He replied:

"Coordination with the General Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry is aimed at distributing the quotas of some commodities to importers in accordance with the 1985 commodity budget. We hope that this experience will be useful in that the distribution process will be objective while taking into consideration the commitment to import commodities at the appropriate time to cover market needs.

"The experience of course is still in its infancy. We, along with the General Federation and the merchants, will assess this experience and extract lessons, particularly since the merchants and the General Federation have spent a considerable amount of effort and precious time in this area."

Means of Blackmail

About the middlemen among the authorities in charge of trade regulation, the minister said:

"It is common knowledge that the Ministry of Supply and Trade is a service ministry which deals with many sections of society, including the wholesale and retail merchants. Therefore, it is always crowded with petitioners. We have middlemen in large numbers who have their own ways and diverse purposes. We prefer not to allow middlemen. Some may go after their own personal aims on the pretext of serving the interest of a certain area or a certain group, or they may pursue other tactics. We are trying as much as possible to deal directly with the principal parties without going through a middleman. We consider middlemen a waste of time and perhaps a means of blackmailing the principal parties."

Effective Participation

In reply to the question about the role of the public-sector establishments in fixing prices, the basic ones in particular, and about entrusting the Grains Establishment with the direct importation of wheat and flour, for instance, and the Cement and Foreign Trade Establishment with the importation of cement, he said:

"The Grains Establishment and the General Foreign Trade Establishment are playing an effective role in marketing the commodities question. These establishments are distributing 40 percent of the total goods marketed. With regard to cement, the General Foreign Trade Establishment is playing a significant role in marketing cement. About the law concerning the establishment of

the cement company, it was promulgated in the seventies and needs to be revised. The company needs modernization, which is now in progress. With regard to cement, the role of the General Foreign Trade establishment is well known."

When we asked the minister about the importance of reexamining the matter of organizing the technical committee for the regulation of the importance of the five basic commodities by adding more commodities to it and then regulating its work, he said:

"There are studies underway to add some necessary items to the five basic ones. This is being done in consultation and coordination with the concerned parties and the cabinet's economic committee. If the items to be added to the commodities are agreed upon, they will be announced in due time and will be subject to the same process currently applied to the five basic commodities."

A Committee and Four Functions

Regarding the higher committee which was formed to set prices and the steps followed by this committee and its relationship with the international stock market to monitor price fluctuations as they occur, the minister of supply said:

"It was necessary to face price escalation and create an official authority responsible for setting prices and regulating them in accordance with the methods used in the various Arab, Islamic and developed countries. And in order that the issue of prices will cease to be an octopus subject to whims, moods and needs, we issued a decree to form this committee with the following initial functions:

- "1. Weekly price setting and monitoring of various necessary developments.
- "2. Publication of prices in the press and the mass media in the capital and all the governorates.
- "3. Display of prices in all commercial stores, markets and commodity and product-trading centers, etc.
- "4. Development of a system for posting and displaying prices to be followed by every local producer and importer. The committee holds periodic meetings to monitor price issues, be it at the local agricultural, industrial or production level or at the imported commodity level. It will adopt all measures to regulate and protect the consumer and establish fair prices."

Of course this is the first in a series of meetings and interviews we held with officials in the government or the trade sector. The minister promised to provide us with news from the ministry as it becomes available and with the price list which the ministry will periodically publish in accordance with the world prices it monitors.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

OFFICIAL SPEAKS ON NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Apr 85 pp 3, 6

[Interview with Muhammad Ahmad al-Sa'idi, director general of the General Organization for Geological Surveying, by Yahya Muhammad al-'Alafi; place and date not given: "Important Steps on the Road of Searching and Exploring for Natural Resources in our Country"]

[Text] From early on, our country, represented by its careful political leadership, under the command of the pioneer of its journey, the high-minded brother Col 'Ali 'AbdAllah Salih, president of the republic, commander-in-chief of the armed forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has looked after development of its economic resources and development of the means and capabilities of utilization of its productive resources. In this framework, the economic policy of our country has concentrated on the area of production, to give first priority to agricultural development and development of mining resources and to allocation of sufficient amounts of investment to these two sectors, in consideration of their being the material basis for commodity production and a source for their increase and diversification, as well as processing of raw materials and primary resources. In order to achieve a sufficient amount of capacity and production, our political leadership has striven to stimulate elements of the work and production sectors by changing the laws and decrees in widespread practical areas of work in various sectors and places of work and production. From this starting point, establishments, organizations and general agencies were created in step with the point of departure of the time and its economic, social and developmental evolution. The General Organization for Geological Surveying and Mineral and Petroleum Exploration [Organization for Geological Surveying] is one of our modern agencies, to which our political leadership has entrusted the bulk of its concern for economic and development considerations, in close and secure connection with our cultural future and evolution of our ascending, September, charter journey.

AL-THAWRAH asked brother Muhammad Ahmad al-Sa'idi, the director general of the Organization for Geological Surveying, which undertakes search and exploration activities for our national resources, a number of questions about the organization.

We appreciate the fact that he was kind enough to reply. To begin, we asked the brother director general of the organization about the following:

The Jurisdictions of the Organization for Geological Surveying

Brother Muhammad al-Sa'idi said: First, we esteem highly the honorable newspaper AL-THAWRAH, its interest in various aspects of work and production and its various national and service sectors. The Organization for Geological Surveying was one of the productive sectors which was established in conformity with our future desire to exploit our nation's natural resources and their by-products in all of their varieties. The organization was charged with drawing up a mineral and petroleum policy consonant with the plan of the General Establishment for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, and with implementing it in a way so as to secure the discovery, exploitation and development through their various stages of the mineral and petroleum resources, within the framework of the economic plan of the state.

This from one side. From another side, the organization undertakes all of the activities necessary for the discovery of petroleum and minerals and their exploitation in a way so as to be compatible with conservation of these resources and in accordance with the plan for the establishment. Moreover, the organization undertakes supervision of technical activities of the oil and mineral companies in the discovery, exploration and exploitation phases as well as guiding them in accordance with the plan for the Establishment for Conservation of Mineral and Petroleum Resources. It also undertakes supervision of various foreign and national companies in the area of searching and exploration for mineral resources. This is in addition to the organization pursuing implementation of the policy of the establishment related to exploitation of mineral and petroleum resources as well as conducting negotiations on its behalf according to authorization by the president of the board of directors. The organization is undertaking to propose laws pertaining to organizing activities of exploration and exploitation of mineral, petroleum and ground water resources, supervision of their implementation, and granting licenses related to mineral exploration and exploitation activities in a manner consonant with the plan of the establishment in this area. Beyond this, the organization undertakes audits of the accounts and expenditures of the companies working in the field of mining and collects mining taxes in accordance with the law on mining.

Moreover, the Organization for Geological Surveying has jurisdiction--according to the law creating the General Establishment for Petroleum and Mineral Resources--over the activity of searching, exploration and exploitation and model investment for mineral and petroleum resources, as well as over drawing up the policy of the state in this area and implementing the second 5-year plan. It also has complete supervision over quarries, mines and all extractive industries, and it has jurisdiction to license them, to encourage them and support them in technical ways, and to offer to them complete consultation.

Setting up the Organization for Geological Surveying... and the Steps of its Work

I asked brother Muhammad al-Sa'idi: What about the creation of the Organization for Geological Surveying...and the steps of its work, from its creation until now?

He said: The Organization for Geological Surveying was created recently, when it was judged as being different from other governmental establishments and organizations. The Authority for Mineral Resources was created in 1973, at that time under the supervision of the Ministry of Economy and Industry. Its work and the organization of its affairs was linked to the routine that characterized the regime of the state. When this arrangement was not suitable to the task of searching and exploring for mineral resources in the country, and to encourage the organization, the state thought to combine it with the Establishment for Petroleum, in order to combine within one framework incentives for searching and exploration and to give greater profits from our mineral and petroleum resources. A minister of state was appointed to head the establishment because of its importance. A decree establishing the Establishment for Oil and Mineral Resources encompassed creation of three separate units directly subordinate to the minister of state who heads the General Establishment for Petroleum and Mineral Resources. These units are: the Organization for Geological Surveying; the petroleum company, responsible for distribution and sale of petroleum and for supervision of its price; and the al-Salif rock salt company. An idea came along to incorporate these three units into a framework of a single establishment in order to balance and distribute the competencies and to share the capabilities and concentrate the capabilities and capacities. In regard to the second part of the question, which is about the steps of the work of the organization during the past period, I want to indicate that the work is in full swing in all aspects pertaining to the task of the organization. In regard to the issue of petroleum discoveries, I want to note that work is progressing in this area in accordance with the carefully considered plans, programs and designs for it. Perhaps we all follow the news reports about this as it happens.

As for what pertains to searching and exploring for other mineral resources, such as zinc, silver and lead (in the hill and mountain region in the Governorate of Sanaa) it is doubtful that these minerals are abundant in a good grade, but their extraction is proceeding in accordance with established studies. This is not for the local market only. Any useful study for an investment project to exploit mineral resources must rely on exporting abroad or to the international market.

Projects of the Organization... and the Means and Capabilities Available

I asked a question that occurred to me suddenly, concerning the projects of this young general organization and what has been achieved, in the way of implementation and plans, in the area of its jurisdiction. What are the means and capabilities available to it?

The brother director general of the organization answered me on this issue, saying: We have many ambitious plans, some of which are under way and are being implemented, some of which are under study, searching and exploration. The work of the organization and its jurisdictions are searching, field work and exploration, as we know. Thus we have a project of searching for minerals in the Governorate of Sa'dah and another project in the northeastern region and the al-Hamurah copper project in the Governorate of Ta'izz. Moreover, the al-Hamurah project has been completed through the step of the final study of the reports of the first stage. This project will move into a stage of new searching with the goal of attaining sufficient data on the available minerals. In general the project is still under study and research.

Then we have a project for industrial and building materials, which is the most recent project for which a study has been completed in some regions, with other regions still under study, searching and exploration. The goal of this project is the search for materials used in building operations, such as gypsum, marble and other building materials.

As for the means and capabilities employed in search and exploration operations for the materials belonging to these projects, they are mostly limited, in the initial survey, to the areas of reconnaissance (aerial, radiation or magnetic surveys). It is preferable to have this in the beginning. Then comes the procedure of sending a geological team to conduct a field survey, where samples and small fragments of the surface are collected for analysis in the organization's laboratory.

In each stage, a report is made about the results achieved, and this procedure is repeated a number of times. Then, in light of this, experts and a team are sent with equipment to the exploration site to conduct additional studies. They can carry out drilling and collect additional samples for examination. In light of reports such as these it is possible to make a decision about the potential exploitation of these resources, or to make further studies. Our aspirations for the internal capabilities of the Organization for Geological Surveying do not go beyond knowledgeable expertise specializing in the fields of searching and excavating. Then support equipment is introduced, such as the drilling rigs and such customary equipment as the simple hammer and magnifying glass or more complicated equipment, including analytical and laboratory equipment in its various parts. In this framework, we have the central laboratory which performs its role effectively. We do not claim that all of the tests can be performed on all of the samples we want to examine, but it is satisfactory for most of the samples that we used to send abroad. We still send a large number of samples that the laboratory is not able to study to international laboratories. We hope that the capability is given to us to expand the organization's laboratory in keeping with the existing expansion in the field of searching and exploring for mineral, petroleum and oil resources, in accordance with our 5-year plan and the aspirations of our political leadership. In addition to the above, a geological survey

team will work in new areas this year, such as the area of Hajjah. This requires an increase in material and technical capabilities. We truly are trying, without hesitation, to utilize all of the capabilities at our disposal, including local and foreign experts.

The Experts...and the Degree of Utilization of their Expertise

"What about the foreign experts and national capabilities?" I asked the brother director general of the Organization for Geological Surveying.

His reply was as follows: We are helped by a number of sister and friendly states. We have Dutch, French, Romanian and German experts. Experts from the Soviet Union will arrive soon. And this is in addition to American and British petroleum experts.

Thus we employ whatever experts are available to us, as long as it will benefit the organization or serve the goals and objectives of the organization, specifically implementation of its plan for exploration and extraction of mineral and petroleum resources. This concerning the foreign experts; as for the local cadres and experts, we have a large number of them, particularly in the areas of general geology and geophysics and drilling, mining and petroleum engineering. We know, as a matter of fact, that all of them are graduates of universities and specialized institutes in various parts of the world. We know that the universities of the world are on one level, and that the matter returns, ultimately, to the person himself. If we may use a proverb, "We may fill a glass with water and keep the water in it for some time, but the same amount of water, if poured on the ground, will dry up after a few moments." The first stage is the capacity for learning. Some people have a strong desire to acquire knowledge and consume it passionately. This is one aspect. Another, and more important, aspect concerns the preservation of this knowledge and its development in the mind of the educated person. We call this development expertise. The acquisition of expertise is more difficult by far than the acquisition of knowledge itself. In this--most unfortunately--we find that the majority of our youth, when they graduate, trifle in the affairs of life, even though they have the intellectual abilities and capabilities that enable them to continue along the applied scientific path. Or they think that the period of hard work (the period of study) has passed and ended, and the diploma has been acquired and put in a beautiful frame on the wall of the house. They are content to look at it from time to time, believing that the time for relaxation has come. Whoever spent 4 years at the university, expending effort, thinks that he has the right to relax afterwards, ignorant that the course of life is long and arduous and requires effort and perspiration. On the contrary. The stage of study is equivalent to a preparatory stage of training intellectual strength and talent for the performance of duty in the serious task. Some of the brothers think--most unfortunately--that as soon as one of them has received the diploma it becomes obligatory on the government and society to provide him all that he needs of the demands to which he has become accustomed in countries whose development

has preceded ours by a great deal. He studied in them or visited them without undertaking any effort in return, ignorant that in our own country we are still, in spite of the great and extraordinary achievements that have been realized since the glorious September revolution, considered one of the least developed states, and that material resources themselves will not achieve miracles if the people are not up to the level of the challenge. We are, in these trials, among those nations suffering from hunger and disease, while they have the capabilities to be able to maintain, at the least, a minimum suitable amount of growth.

Other Operations and Activities of the Organization for Geological Surveying

Brother al-Sa'idi, the director general of the organization says: In addition to what was explained previously, I want to point out that the Organization for Geological Surveying, in cooperation with Dutch experts, undertakes hydrological studies to make it possible to draw up a hydrological map of the republic. A large number of these studies have been completed, especially in the Tihamah and some of the wadis in many districts of Yemen, and we are continuing this work in the highland and other areas. As we know, our country is considered to be one of the poorest regions of the world for water reserves. This calls for detailed study to calculate the water reserves in order to complete, afterwards, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Establishment for Water and related agencies, the drawing up of a plan to organize the process of exploitation of this precious resource (water) in an economical and organized manner. In truth, in as much as we talked about the subject of water, I direct an urgent request--by means of the newspaper AL-THAWRAH--to every journalist in our country to devote effort and work to create and devise a media campaign to devise a policy for water exploitation in the Yemen Arab Republic, because journalists are uniquely able, by means of the various media, to plant the idea in the mind of every man, woman and child, of achieving a fixed water exploitation policy, since there is no life without water. A fixed policy is essential. In addition to everything above, we have, in the area of energy, a project to extract thermal power. During the next few years we hope to have success in exploiting this power present in the depths of the earth for generations of electricity, which we hope to make a basis for lowering the cost of electrical current for the citizens. In this regard we have begun a thermal feasibility study in the area of Dhamar. We are also undertaking a study of the possibility of using solar power.

A summary of the remarks: These projects are in addition to a mining project in the mountain region. It is the most prominent of those which the organization is undertaking by means of implementing its set plans. I do not forget here to mention a pioneering experiment in the area of exploring and searching for minerals, specifically, the joint project between the two Yemens. This great co-project consists of a joint administration between the two countries, as well as Yemeni capabilities and experts, Arab and foreign experts and financing from the Arab Fund

for Economic Development. This project will take charge of searching and exploring for mineral resources in the border area between the two countries as well as other areas. This project is considered to be one of the most successful joint projects between the two countries to date.

A Final Word

Since our country is rich in resources and the bounty of the resources contained in its land, we need to realize their extraction and to improve their exploitation. This is possible in two aspects. The first--as brother Muhammad al-Sa'idi, the director general of the Organization for Geological Surveying, said--is that each one of us be aware of his responsibility toward this nation, particularly in taking upon himself the concern of the study in this area. The second is that we improve our employment of the capabilities and methods available to us, making use of our previous experience in this matter. I believe I am correct that Yemen is a closed nut which will enrich its sons insofar as it is possible for them to catch up with developed civilizations. Heartfelt greetings to all of the faithful.

12780

CSO: 4404/339

1 August 1985

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

PRICE, SUPPLY ISSUES DISCUSSED

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Apr 85 p 3

[Article by Ahmad Yahya al-Dulaymi: "Supply Establishments and Price Problem; Board Chairman of the Yemeni Foreign Trade Company: Absence of Control Leads to Cement Price Manipulation; Board Chairman of the General Grains Establishment: We Are Working To Sell Wheat to Citizens Without Middlemen"]

[Text] When the price issue became a subject of great controversy in the late seventies due to the open-door policy which was skillfully used by merchants to reap huge profits by following the shortest way and the easiest method, the government was compelled to adopt measures to put an end to whim and provide basic commodities at reasonable prices.

This prompted the creation of the General Foreign Trade Establishment and the General Grains Establishment which, along with the Cooperative Company for Government Employees and the Military Economic Establishment, played a basic and prominent role in the local market. They were able to fix prices at a reasonable and acceptable level. At one time, however, their role became a little ambiguous and it was said that they became an establishment that merely distributed its shares to merchants without seeking to sell directly to the people. In the framework of the interviews we are holding with officials at the Ministry of Supply and Trade and its institutions, we met with brothers Muhammad Hashim, board chairman of the Yemeni Foreign Trade Company, and 'Abdallah al-Burkani, board chairman of the General Grains Establishment, to talk about the role of these two establishments in putting a stop to market manipulation and hence to clarify a number of matters raised about them and the public-sector establishments in general concerning their part in raising the price of food commodities, especially the basic items such as wheat, sugar, flour, rice and powdered milk. Of course the first items are some of the regulated commodities imported through the Ministry of Supply and Trade via the import regulation committee. The strange thing is that the ministry has not yet considered including powdered milk among these items which, amazingly enough, has become more popular and shortages in this commodity affect hundreds of children who depend on it.

Direct Sale to People

At any rate, when we met with brother 'Ali Muhammad Hashim at the Foreign Trade Establishment, we asked him about the steps the establishment adopted to an end to the crisis which some people tried to cause. He replied:

We, as an establishment, began at the end of 1983, when the first signs of crisis emerged, to sell directly to the people. We stopped our entire wholesale operation and opened display centers in major cities and sale centers in some remote areas with a view to getting food to the people directly and preventing exploitation. We opened, for example, five display centers in Sanaa, three in al-Hudaydah, two in Ta'izz and five in Dhamar, in addition to a sale center each in al-Tawilah, 'Umrān, Bajil, al-Jurahi, Bayt al-Faqih, al-Mahwit 'Atmah, al-Zaydiyyah, 'Abs, Harad, al-Turbah, al-Nashmah al-Rahidah, al-Jah, Ma'baq, Zurayqit al-Sham, Yarim and Rada' and agents in al-Siddah and al-Bayda'. All these display centers sell directly to the people and cement is the only commodity sold to merchants in implementation of the policy aimed at giving the private sector a measure of production to widen the distribution base. We asked the Ministry of Supply and Trade for the list of merchants and gradually began distributing to them cement. This procedure has its negative as well as positive aspects. The positive aspects are represented in equitable distribution to all merchants and in help to the establishment in selling the products because its capabilities do not allow it, or help it, to sell directly to the people on a large scale. The negative aspects lie in the fact that the large number of merchants make it difficult to control them during their sale operations, thus leading to price manipulation at times and also to the absence of good control.

Rate of Coverage

About the rate of coverage, the head of the establishment said: "We cannot control supply because most items are subject to the importation system. The share we receive from the Ministry of Supply and Trade is 10 percent of the total imports of the five basic commodities, as opposed to the previous rate of 40 percent.

"The establishment's share dropped to this level as a result of participation by the other establishments. We hope that the other public establishments will open more displays and centers to sell directly to the people for the purpose of alleviating the crisis which some are trying to create.

"Merchants everywhere, regardless of their sincerity, are always looking for opportunities to raise prices and make huge profits quickly."

'Ali Muhammad Hashim explained to us the establishment's plan for distribution in the governorates it covers, as follows:

[Figures in percentages]

	Wheat	Flour	Sugar	Rice
Sanaa	40	33	30	36.5
Ta'izz	33	32.4	32	22
al-Hudaydah	15	29.8	30	22
Dhamar	12	4.8	8	8.5

This is equal to the following amounts (in numbers of sacks):

	Sanaa	Ta'izz	Al-Hudaydah	Dhamar
Fine sugar	126,922	123,177	134,121	23,902
Coarse sugar	54,126	39,217	38,246	238,601
Wheat	966,484	150,696	379,828	66,850
Cement	322,140	359,882	84,725	46,790
Flour	43,042	101,439	87,824	60,150
Rice	32,930	35,060	28,218	20,150

Of course, these amounts received by the establishment are part of its share from the bids announced by the Ministry of Supply and Trade and distributed according to the aforementioned percentages.

Regarding the problem of "Nido" [powdered] milk imported some time ago in mutual agreement with the first agent of the Shihab Company, 'Ali Muhammad Hashim said:

"In order to bring the citizens into the picture, the establishment has not imported any of these products for a year as of the date the establishment raised its imports from 20,000 cans to 600,000 cans to meet the people's needs.

"However, the agent regained his import right but, nonetheless, the establishment offered its remaining stock to prevent price gouging. We would like to point out that we deal with many grocery stores and merchants who raise the prices, but our prices are fixed." He emphasized that the price increase of one can over 47 riyals by wholesalers and 50 riyals by retailers is greedy and excessive. (In this regard, he showed us distribution lists to grocery stores and merchants and invoices.)

Provision of Certain Commodities

About the establishment's future plans to put an end to supply problems, he said:

"To implement the guidelines, we are now seeking to provide certain commodities in demand to prevent monopoly. The establishment is the supply arm committed to providing necessary items. We are now in the process of importing additional amounts of dried dairy products, in cans and in bags, and also cattle in addition to flour, sugar and wheat. Moreover, the establishment is currently opening new display and sales centers and expanding its importation of canned foodstuffs.

Thus, the establishment is protecting the citizenry against monopoly, and the various responsible authorities are being asked to help us face any new developments.

Provision of Grains

In talking about the Grains Establishment, it must be pointed out that this establishment according to Article 32 of the law creating it, is charged with the task of providing grains either through local purchases from farmers or through importation. However, its present status is similar to that of the other establishments. It distributes 10 percent of the imported wheat and flour and buys local products from farmers at promotional prices as an incentive to farmers to grow more grains. Let us listen to board chairman 'Abdallah al-Burkani, who had this to say about selling directly to the citizenry:

"The establishment has opened more display centers to retail directly to the citizenry and cancelled a few months ago its wholesale operation. It opened four display centers in Sanaa, one in Hajjah, one in al-Hudaydah, two in Ta'izz, one in Ibb and one in Yarim, in addition to its main warehouses in Sanaa, al-Hudaydah, Ibb and Dhamar. Moreover, it is currently selling in the weekly market in remote areas. This policy has enabled it to reach the consumer directly and maintain the price set by the Ministry of Supply and Trade. The establishment has also participated with the other supply establishments in providing grains to the markets in large quantities by doubling the proper loading and unloading procedures."

Concerning the establishment's plans to develop its special activities, particularly in the field of augmenting its grain storage capacity, he said:

"First, we must emphasize that the existing economic establishments are considered the most important accomplishment of the glorious 26 September revolution. As for the establishment's plans, they may be summed up as follows:

First, in the field of services to the citizenry, the most important objective of the establishment's creation is to offer goods to consumers through retail centers easily and at prices set by the Ministry of Supply. The establishment has carried out this objective and has offered clean, healthy wheat flour at cost and at various weights to facilitate demand. This is in addition to its role in encouraging farmers by buying their surplus grain production and offering them (jawani) in the form of loans against their crops. Meanwhile, it also contracts with them in advance to buy the crops at appropriate prices.

It also offers healthy bread and clean flour to local bakeries out of its desire to guarantee clean bread by local bakeries. Moreover, it offers technical advice to local bakeries upon request.

Second are the projects:

1. Project to modernize the mills: After putting into operation the two mills attached to the Sanaa and Ta'izz bakeries which were not equipped to mill for the market but only for the bakeries directly, and when we found a great demand for grains ground at the establishment's modern mills, we developed them in accordance with high-level technical studies. Work will begin next May. This has been fully financed from the establishment's surplus funds.

2. Project to renovate present bakeries to produce popular bread: The technical specifications have been drawn up and legal measures have been completed for its completion. Renovation will start in the middle of next March and will lead to the production of bread acceptable to the consumer. The production capacity will be 3.5 times greater than it is at present and a bid will be re-invited for production lines in view of the fact that we did not get the specifications we requested in our previous bid. The project will be completed this year.

3. Project for grain silos: The task of storing grain according to the most modern ways and advanced scientific methods is one of the most important duties of the establishment, the most important need of the people and the most important incentive for encouraging farmers, developing agricultural techniques and protecting the farmers and the consumer. Using this as a basis, our political leadership, under our leader and president, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, general commander of the armed forces and secretary general of the General Popular Conference, has been intent on realizing this project. The government has offered us various moral and material capabilities which help us realize this great accomplishment. Therefore, the establishment has prepared an economic feasibility study through its own team and the best consulting firms in the world. The study pointed to our country's need to build grain silos throughout the country with enough storage capacity to meet the country's needs for a long time to come. The project will be completed in two stages. We shall start the first stage during the second part of this year. The project will cost a large amount of money, but the government, in its desire to implement it, has provided the necessary money for completing this important and vital project. I believe that this project is considered a great and important accomplishment and, indeed, the most important and vital project to be added to the score of the revolution and its inspiring leader, the president of the republic, under whose regime the greatest accomplishments have been realized.

In addition, there is a plan to set up a company for transporting wheat between the ports and the silos and between the farmers and the silos to help reduce transport costs considerably.

Third, rules and bylaws: Of course, any success by any establishment depends on good and established administrative, fiscal and technical rules and regulations. Accordingly, we have prepared a list of jurisdictions defining the

duties of each department, section and unit. This is in addition to developing a unified fiscal and accounting system that helps realize the establishment's goals and complete its projects meticulously. A program has been drawn up to develop and improve performance and train employees inside and outside the establishment. We have planned for training seven leading employees in milling, technical inspection, technical supervision, maintenance of silos and grain marketing.

12502

CSO: 4404/338

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

LAW DRAFTED ON LOCAL COOPERATIVE COUNCILS

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Apr 85 p 1

[Text] The Constituent People's Assembly held an emergency session yesterday morning under the chairmanship of Judge 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Arshi, vice president, assembly president and member of the Permanent Committee, to hear the report submitted by the Cultural and Services Committee about the local councils bill for cooperative development.

Following an exhaustive debate, the assembly ratified the bill after introducing some necessary amendments for the purpose of realizing the principle of participation on the local level for which people are now preparing themselves. This is part of the on-going democratic process of our country, which it has still been experiencing for the past few years, as a new phase of action in the practical application of the national charter. This important stage is aimed at realizing the key objective laid down in the permanent constitution and confirmed in the national charter. It is the richest and most distinctive phase in clarity and detail. This objective is linked to the creation of the modern Yemeni state and the complete building of the state's structure on scientific bases in order to improve the present situation. It is linked as well to the creation of a climate conducive to the development and growth of trust between the citizenry and the state in such a way as to link national loyalty to the country to loyalty to the state which protects the land and safeguards the people's freedoms and interests so that the sense of belonging to the country or the state is rendered stronger and deeper than parochial affiliations, which gain strength in the absence of mutual trust between the authorities and the people. The national charter clearly outlines the way that leads us to this objective through application of the principle of comprehensive popular participation by means of the achievement of two basic steps, which are:

- (1) To build a strong, enlightened, democratic centralized state with constitutional institutions and executive agencies.
- (2) To realize the principle of participation on the local level through the true application of the local administration system. The application of this system is the new phase of action our people are seriously getting ready to

achieve through the establishment of local administrative councils approved by the assembly in this session.

Yesterday's session was attended by government representative Isma'il al-Wazir, minister of civil service and administrative reform, and a number of experts from the competent agencies.

12502

CSO: 4404/338

1 August 1985

AFGHANISTAN

RESISTANCE LEADER DESCRIBES STRUGGLE

Paris GEOPOLITIQUE in French Spring 85 pp 37-41

[Interview with Commander Abdul Haq by Alain Boinet and Homayoun Majrouh; date and place not given]

[Text] GEOPOLITIQUE: Commander Abdul Haq, 5 years after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, what is the military situation of the resistance and, in your opinion, of the Red Army?

Abdul Haq: Generally speaking, I would say that these 5 years of war unjustly imposed upon us by the USSR can be divided into two periods. During the first 4 years, from 1980 to 1983, the Red Army was unable to destroy the resistance. This is why the Soviet Union considerably increased its troop strength and weaponry in 1984.

Where we members of the resistance are concerned, despite our losses and the greatest migration of refugees the world has seen since World War II, our fighting troops have not been too much affected, the main losses having basically occurred among the civilian population. We are organized, we have gained experience, and our presence and the pressure we exert have become ever stronger in the war sector.

[Question] You mention an increase in the Soviet forces. Can you assess it?

[Answer] It is difficult for us to give precise figures for the whole of the Afghan territory. On the other hand, we feel it concretely in the field. For example, the number of outposts for protection around this Soviet base or that one--there were four or five in the past--has increased to 10 or 12. And the buildings occupying a certain area have doubled in the terrain around the large cities.

Finally, in the past, the Soviet command launched no more than one or two offensives at the same time. This is no longer the case. Now they launch several offensives on a major scale simultaneously in various regions.

To summarize, the "escalation" is reflected in the multiplication and the simultaneity of the major offensives. Last spring, the Soviets used heavy

Tupolev 16 bombers for the first time, and helicopter-borne operations, some on a major scale, have become widespread.

This was only made possible by a substantial increase in the Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

The Soviets have realized that their military strength would not suffice to destroy our resistance, although initially they thought they could succeed in this. And then they saw that apart from timid verbal condemnations of their actions, foreign countries were not giving the resistance much, or any, support. Thus they want to provide themselves with the means of putting an end to this resistance, in the silence surrounding it.

[Question] You operate in the cities and in the Kabul region. How is the war developing there, and what tactics are you using?

[Answer] In Kabul, the war takes two main forms: the war inside the city, which is urban guerrilla warfare, and the war around Kabul, which is in fact semi-guerrilla warfare. Four roads link Kabul with the neighboring provinces and countries. They are the road to the USSR, through the Salang tunnel, the road to Iran through Qandahar, the road to Pakistan through Jelalabad and the Khyber Pass, and a route leading toward the province of Paktia. We are organizing ambushes and mining the roads for the purpose of creating transit difficulties, and sometimes even blocking these four main routes. Our second objective is the Soviet troops in Kabul itself and its environs, as well as the government troops of Babrak Karmal. This is because the general command and the main installations of the Soviets and the communist government are located in Kabul and its periphery.

We also attack the production units, for example the installations which produce and store the electrical energy which supplies Kabul, the grain silos, etc. And finally, to affect the morale of the occupying force and those collaborating with it, we attack certain civilian or military individuals carrying out important functions and thus bearing serious responsibilities.

[Question] Have you sufficient means and materiel in Kabul, in view of the Soviet escalation, to achieve the very diversified objectives of which you have just spoken?

[Answer] It goes without saying that, faced with this military escalation, we have intensified our attacks and, above all, we have changed tactics, in order to adapt them better to the new circumstances.

Where the fighting strength is concerned, we have no problem. On the other hand, the weapons we have do not suffice to equip everyone. And despite the slight improvements--we now have 107-millimeter rockets--we are having undeniable difficulties where weapons are concerned, since there is a great inadequacy in quantitative terms, but an even greater one in terms of quality.

[Question] Concretely, can you tell us exactly what military operations you have organized recently?

[Answer] Last summer, we mounted a surprise attack on the Soviet general headquarters in Kabul, located at the summit of Tapetashbek Hill.

When the Soviet officers and the general command for Afghanistan meet, it is not in fact a secret to anyone, because an extraordinary deployment of forces can then be seen, and the hill and its environs are overflowed by observation planes and helicopters.

On land, there are three security belts around the general headquarters, and the routes leading to it are blocked at a distance of 5 kilometers. Thanks to an excellent knowledge of the terrain and of the security system, as well as some informants, we have been able to infiltrate a fighting unit into this arrangement. We even had to swim across the river to make the approach.

When we launched our attack on the general headquarters, some buildings burned, which caused heavy losses. Then helicopters bombed the zone where we were. We were very close to the Soviet positions and were surrounded, but as the soldiers fled the fires, we profited from the confusion to slip away. All during the night, ambulances and helicopters came and went. The next day, all of the surrounding villages were bombed by way of reprisal.

Public rumor, and then confirmation from our informants, indicated substantial destruction, as well as the death of a number of Soviet officers, including some generals.

In another connection, I can also tell you of the destruction in Kabul itself of the electric power plant fueled with gas-oil, involving an estimated \$40 million. Or of the attack on and destruction of the electric power plant in Maipar, located on the road leading from Kabul to Jelalabad. In studying the matter before the attack, we noted three vulnerable points: the pipe system, the main pylon and the transformers. We blew them up, and the plant was put out of use for 6 months. It is estimated that this operation caused \$60 million damage.

[Question] It has often been said that the Afghan resistance has suffered from scattered forces, and that it had a large number of commands. It is even suggested that this somewhat limits its efficiency. Is it possible that it could be otherwise? Is this true, and is progress being made in the coordination of the various commands?

[Answer] On the regional level, this coordination is under way or has been completed. On the national level, this seems to me very difficult, or even practically impossible, because of the great distances between cities and regions.

Our means, or rather our lack of them, prevents us from effecting such general coordination of our military actions. We do not have the transport facilities to send combatants from one front to another, based on need. We do not have the radio communications for linking one region with another.

But on the regional level, our actions are coordinated, for we can link the various commands within a reasonable period of time. On the other hand, if I

wanted to coordinate anything at all with the resistance force in Kandahar, it would take perhaps a month to succeed in doing so.

[Question] Recently, the Commission on the Rights of Man published a report which is damning for Moscow and Kabul, although it did not bring up the problem of the civilian population. What consequences of the war have the Afghan people suffered?

[Answer] In Afghanistan, the dirty Soviet war is being pursued in our towns and villages, where the people, who in the vast majority reject the invader and his communist collaborators, live. The war of aggression and annexation leads to the destruction of homes, entire villages, crops, irrigation canals and livestock. All of this inevitably results in famine and the desertification of Afghanistan.

[Question] Is the resistance in a position to deal with the Soviet escalation? Is it not in danger of finding itself eventually in a difficult situation?

[Answer] First of all, I should say that the word "defeat" is one excluded from our vocabulary. That being the case, it is obvious that we will experience ever greater difficulties, and perhaps even that our efficiency will be affected and will decrease. But even if we did not have the weapons we presently do, we would not cease to resist, and the will of the people to resist will not be lessened by the intensification of the war.

[Question] During the last vote on the UN resolution on Afghanistan, 119 countries demanded the withdrawal of the foreign, and thus Soviet, troops from your country. We have seen the practical consequences. What concretely do you expect of the countries which are supporting you?

[Answer] What could I ask of them other than to adopt a firm policy toward the USSR, to make it understand that the world does not and never will accept its occupation of Afghanistan? For this battle is not ours alone. The Soviet troops did not come solely to occupy Afghanistan, which has no major assets. But Afghanistan represents a step toward Iran, Pakistan, the Indian subcontinent, the bypassing of China, a step toward the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

If they defeat us, it affects you too. We are being sacrificed on the altar of the war between the Soviet Union and the West. In this war of regional and international scope, we have been practically abandoned. We dare to hope that the countries which claim to be free will make their deeds consistent with their words, by supporting the combatants for liberty.

To speak clearly and concretely, we need:

--Military aid, and more specifically, effective antiaircraft weapons of the Sam 7 or Stinger type;

--Political support, both through the exertion of diplomatic pressure on the USSR and through support of the Afghan resistance, which legitimately represents the Afghan people; and

--Humanitarian aid in the form of urgent food supplies for the Afghan people in certain regions, who are already experiencing a prefamine situation.

[Question] Is the Afghan resistance waging a hopeless battle?

[Answer] For the past 5 years we have been proving the contrary. In 1980, all of the experts and specialists, both in the East and West, agreed that we would not last long. The military frustration of the Soviets is a political and military success for the resistance, which is fighting in terrain which gives it an advantage. In my opinion, this war will be a long one. The Afghan people are fighting and will continue to fight with courage and determination and to the end, for their faith and for their freedom. The Soviets can never truly crush the soul of the Afghan resistance if the world sees us, if it does not avert its eyes in order to forget. For 5 years, the Afghan resistance has been proving that it exists and that it must be acknowledged. Our victory or our defeat depends on you too. We are fighting. What about you?

5157

CSO: 4619/59

AFGHANISTAN

MOTHER-CHILD HEALTH CLINIC SERVICES EXPANDING

Kabul DEHQAN in Dari 2 Jun 85 p 2

/Text/ Protection and cure for the preservation of the health of the mother and child has been a deep concern of our revolutionary government. Thus, for this purpose the number of clinics responsible for the protection of mother and child health have increased in the capital and all the provinces of the country. In a like manner, with a view to treating mothers and children, children's hospital have recently been created.

In 1363 /21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985/ there were 20 mother-child health clinics active in various districts of Kabul city; in addition, 29 health centers have been available to school children--in these clinics children up to 14 years of age are accepted for treatment. Malali Zirentun hospital with 350 beds in two sections of gynecology and pediatrics is at the service of mothers. Similarly, in the various sections of the children's hospital which has 250 beds, different diseases pertaining to children are treated.

In 1363 the governmental hospital for children with 110 beds was established.

Another facility is the family counseling centers which are available to the mothers. In the city of Kabul there are 30 such centers which help the mothers in their child and family-related issues.

According to the report from a source in the Mother-Child Protection Department, in 1363 in the pediatric ward of the Malali Zirentun hospital there were a total of 20,959 births of which 20,317 infants survived. Included in the births was one single case of triplets and 313 cases of twins. During the same period in this hospital a total of 390,500 cubic centimeters of blood were transfused to patients.

In the mother-child clinics a total of 317,687 children were examined and duly treated and 422,477 children were vaccinated. In a like fashion, in these clinics 61,931 mothers were examined and properly treated.

The nutrition branch of the mother-child health clinics twice a week prepares special diet food for the children who are suffering from malnutrition.

In 1363 alone, 14,646 children who were suffering from malnutrition were put on proper diet and as a result of the publicity of the propaganda and publicity branch of this clinic, a total of 487,034 mothers duly benefited from the health programs of the clinic. In the health care centers of the schools a total of 67,718 children were examined, treated or were referred to other hospitals for treatment. Likewise, in the Child Care Institute 15,853 infants were treated and 3,664 infants were operated on.

In the same manner, 122,249 patients who were charged for the services were treated by the Child Care Institute and the treatment of 8,400 children who had been sick for a number of years continued. Also 43,535 children were vaccinated by the above-stated clinic.

Over 89,405 mothers used the services provided by the family guidance and counseling centers while 2,300 of new mothers were given assistance by the guidance centers.

The same source added: The Department for the Protection of Mother and Child intends to increase the number of health clinics in 1364 /21 March 1985 - 20 March 1986/ in order to secure the health of the child and mother ever more.

12719

CSO: 4665/91

AFGHANISTAN

LITERACY MOVEMENT EXPANDING THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

Kabul DEHQAN in Dari 22 May 85 p 8

/Text/ According to the progressive method of the revolutionary party and the government, particularly the wise guidance and instructions of comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, the process of literacy movement has been transformed into a matter of general concern throughout the country. With each and every passing day the domain of this movement among our countrymen, irrespective of the gender is ever increasing. The DEHQAN correspondent while quoting the director of education of the Nimruz Province, writes: Despite all the difficulties and obstructions created by counterrevolutionary elements who are opposed to the idea of knowledge and education, at this moment in the Nimruz Province 58 literacy courses have been created. Thirty-one of these courses are being offered in the related armed forces facilities and the remaining 27 courses are offered to the farmers and tradesmen in the villages. The total number of students enrolled in these courses is 1,353 who are being taught by 36 voluntary teachers and 11 non-voluntary or official instructors. Furthermore, with a view to honoring the glorious anniversary of the Sawr revolution, three new literacy courses have been created in the various village centers where, as a result of the comprehensive efforts of the teachers, 382 farmers have continued their education up to the level of 3rd grade.

Similarly, in the Nimruz Province there are 19 primary and secondary schools with a total of 2,080 students of which 1,406 are male and 574 are female students; in addition there are one hundred kindergarten-age students. Altogether 115 teachers are teaching these students according to modern methods of education.

Herat:

Since it is the aim of the revolutionary government to eradicate illiteracy throughout the country, literacy courses are offered in most of the provinces of the country.

Seyyed Ahmad, who is one of the employees of the Customs Department of Herat Province and is taking courses in the second grade, explained his situation to our correspondent /DEHQAN/ in Herat, in the following manner: Thanks to my revolutionary government I have fulfilled my old wish at last and I am learning to read and write now.

Literacy is like a lamp which guides us towards light and knowledge.

I'm personally thankful to my revolutionary government which has made it possible for me to benefit from this precious blessing. Here I would like to ask all the people of Afghanistan who are deprived of the blessing of reading and writing to go to the nearest available center of literacy in their community and take advantage of the significant privileges it can offer.

12719

CSO: 4665/91

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

MUJAHIDIN INTENSIFY ATTACKS--New Delhi, 3 Jul (Dispatches)--Afghan Mujahideen have stepped up attacks against Afghan and Soviet targets in Kabul during the past week, western diplomats and a traveler from Afghanistan said Wednesday. The traveler who returned from the Afghan capital said heavy rocket and machine gun battles disrupted Kabul for the past week, following a month of relative quiet. "We got very worried because the fighting was so close and so intense," said the traveler, who asked not to be identified. She said the battles peaked on Saturday when two security posts in the central Kota-e-Sangi and Shah Shaheed sections of the city were captured by Islamic guerrillas. "All the personnel in the posts were killed or captured," she said, adding that weapons and ammunition were also captured by the Mujahideen. The traveler's account was supported by western diplomats, who said the Soviet Embassy and a large Soviet military encampment came under repeated rocket attacks during the week. "Resistance activities in or around Kabul moved up a notch or two. It is clear the Mujahideen (Islamic guerrillas) have infiltrated more fighters into the city," one diplomat said. Soviet 122mm rockets replied with barrages aimed at suspected Mujahideen positions outside of the city on 28, 29 and 30 June, another diplomat said. Mujahideen infiltrating the city with rocket launchers and machine guns destroyed a Soviet truck and two jeeps along with two Afghan army jeeps, killing a number of soldiers, he said. Soviet and Afghan troops sharply stepped up security measures, with troops backed by tanks cordoning off sections of the city during house-to-house searches for Mujahideen fighters and weapons, the diplomats said. The Islamic guerrillas are fighting to overthrow the Soviet-installed government in Kabul. [Text] [Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 4 Jul 85 pp 1-2]

AFGHAN OFFICER EXECUTED--New Delhi, 3 Jul (IRNA)--A ranking Afghan air force officer was executed last week. He was charged with planting bombs in important installations of Begram Air Force Base. Reports reaching here from inside Afghanistan indicated that discord was growing between the two factions of the ruling People's Democratic Parties of Afghanistan (PDPA), (Parcham and Khalq), following the dismissal of three ranking members of the Khalq faction. The dismissed officials are ministers of mines and industries, Muhammad Ismail Danesh, president of the Central Bank of Afghanistan, Mehrabudin Patkiawal, and member of politburo of the Central Committee of PDPA and head of the Badr-e-Vatan National Front, Muhammad Zearai. It is expected that Karmal will install members of the Parcham faction in the vacant posts. Meanwhile, Afghan sources announced here that a military column comprising 500 forces was sent to Panjsher last week and on their way, they were attacked by Afghan Mujahideen in Parwan State. Fifty Karmal forces were killed and heavy damages were inflicted as a result. [Text] [Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 4 Jul 85 p 1]

IRAN

U.S. ACCUSED OF IRANIAN AIR FORCE DISAPPEARANCE

Athens ETHNOS TIS KYRIAKIS in Greek 9 Jun 85 p 19

[Excerpts] In the past 3 months the world has witnessed a surprising phenomenon: Iraq's Air Force is mercilessly bombing Teheran and other Iranian cities. Three hundred destructive raids have been carried out during this period without even a trace of reaction from the Iranian Air Force. And yet, in the days of the Shah, the Iranian Air Force was one of the largest and best in the world. What happened to it? How did it disappear? There is an answer, which is really surprising, and it is provided by "Solon," our special correspondent, with the following analysis of events:

An astounding mystery--the greatest in our times and perhaps in all time--is surfacing out of the marshes and the steppes where, for nearly 4 years, the war between Iran and Iraq is being waged in continuously widening circles, as in an ancient tragedy. In view of the fact that this war has now escalated to a duel with attacks in depth against cities, those who know the size of the forces of the two opponents ask themselves, "What is going on behind this mystery? What unknown and invisible force swallowed up the weapon that could have terminated the conflict in a few days?"

The mystery, over which experts are racking their brains, is that the Iranian Air Force, which was the seventh numerically (first-line aircraft) and the sixth most powerful in the entire world, has disappeared from the face of the earth.

As a matter of fact, in the days of the Shah, Iran had taken on the role of policing American strategic and economic interests in the Persian Gulf and throughout the entire Near East.

It was natural for America to arm this policeman and gate-keeper to the teeth and without prejudice.

The best aircraft of the day, with the highest technology applied to every detail, were being handed over in vast numbers to the Iranians.

The Strength

The war between Iran and Iraq broke out. Those experts who knew the military potential at the disposal of the two combatants shook their wise heads in commiseration. "A totally unequal war," they said and added, "Iraq is doomed."

As a matter of fact, Iran had a population of 38 million and Iraq one of 13 million.

Iran had a GNP of 76 billion dollars and Iraq one of 21 billion dollars.

As far as their main weapon, the Air Force, was concerned, the numerical and, and even more, the qualitative superiority of Iran was obvious.

This war was a source of surprises from the very beginning. Both military leaderships showed an incompetence and technical ignorance that dumbfounded the experts. There was no application of the principles of war regarding the husbanding of forces and concentration. There was no idea of real maneuvering. It was the epitome of clumsiness: infantile strategy, a total dispersion of forces in a series of operations that were futile and disjointed.

In this whirlwind of paradoxes there stuck out like a sore thumb the mystery: What happened to that all-powerful air force of the Shah that Khomeyni inherited intact? Why did it disappear?

There is, in the Atlantic Ocean, the famous "Bermuda Triangle" where, in earlier days, ships were lost as if the sea had swallowed them up.

"Triangle?"

Is there perhaps in the skies of Iran and Iraq a similar "Bermuda Triangle" that swallows up aircraft? Except that here, we are dealing with an entire aerial armada and one of the largest in the world.

Where are those formidable attack squadrons (FGA [Forward Ground Attack]) of the Shah that would have set Iraq afire like a torch?

Where are the formidable and indomitable ultramodern interceptor aircraft that would have shot down the Iraqi bombers and fighters as if they had been flies when they appeared in the Iranian skies?

Silently, inconceivably, without a whimper, the formidable Iranian Air Force ceased to exist or, to be exact, almost ceased to exist.

The bottom line in the mystery is that the downfall of the Shah's impressive and triumphant air force did not occur gradually, after a 4-year war of attrition, to reach its present sorry state.

It came about with lightning speed, within the first months and not in the 4 years of the war.

As a matter of fact, the yearbook of the International Strategic Institute of London (it is the most reliable source of military information in the Western world), in its 1981 edition, which published the data obtained in the course of the war's first year, that is, 1980, provides these amazing numbers:

Iran's combat air force went from 445 down to 100 serviceable aircraft in 1980, that is, in only a very few months.

Of the 77 F-14 aircraft, only 9 were usable.

Only 50 of the 202 "Phantoms" were usable and only 41 of the 166 F-5's.

It was then that the mysterious disappearance took place.

To what was it due?

Were they shot down in combat?

Absolutely not. The Iraqis themselves report shooting down or destroying on the ground only 35-40 Iranian aircraft.

Are the Iranian pilots incapable of handling them well?

Absolutely not. The Iranian pilots were excellently trained in America. In addition, no matter how clumsy they might have been they would have managed to become aces during 4 years of war.

Was it that the Iranian technicians did not know how to service them properly?

Absolutely not. The Iranian technicians had also been trained in America. In addition, the technical training level of the Iranian people is not that low.

Spare Parts

Is it that Iran cannot secure spare parts for its aircraft?

Absolutely not. An air force always has a stockpile of spare parts. In addition, spare parts are available in a world-wide market where all that is necessary is for one to have dollars in order to find whatever one wants, from mousetrap components to satellite equipment.

The subject was covered by the writer. I mentioned, for the first time in the Greek press, in a 1983 article in the merchant marine magazine SHIPPING MIRROR that examined the possibility of Iran closing--as Khomeyni was threatening--the Straits of Hormuz. I concluded that he could not do it with his air force, as many thought, simply because Khomeyni's air force had ceased to exist and I provided the above-mentioned data, which were unknown until then.

I did not stop investigating the mystery in discussing it with friends, high-ranking military officers, former chiefs of staff and fleet, etc. The most important contribution to the investigation, however, was made by the military attache of a great power who exclaimed with admiration:

"What trickery!"

The expression in the everyday Greek vernacular means: "What an underhanded trick!"

And he explained to me:

"The rendering useless of 400 Iranian aircraft is not due to the fact that in leaving Iran the Americans left the Iranian planes without spare parts; on the contrary, they left them with a large surplus of parts, nor because the planes they sold them were old models; on the contrary, they were marvelously built.

"Yes, my friend, you'll never catch the Yankees being someone's laughing stock. The aircraft and parts they gave Iran were perfect, more than perfect. They were purposely equipped with such unbelievably modern technology that they needed specialists--Americans--who need many years to learn their technology. The same is true for the Iranian technicians who require a great many years to learn their technology, perhaps more than a decade of intensive training."

And he added emphatically:

"If you wanted to study American air technology you should have gone to Iran, not to America. The American aircraft of the Iranian Air Force have technological secrets which are not used in the aircraft of the American Air Force. Thus, the departure of the Americans from Iran doomed 400 Iranian aircraft to immobility among mountains of spare parts and basic instruments that were useless, not because they were of poor quality, but because they were more than perfect ..."

This explanation was heard by a Greek, a former chief of one of our staffs. When the foreigner finished speaking, I asked the Greek:

"What do you think about all this? Does this solve the mystery?"

"As far as I am concerned it does. Can you detect the moral of the story?"

I thought about it a long time before I understood what he meant. Finally, I think that I found it. We too will now acquire American aircraft with the "purchase of the century." Additional checks will be needed, not just the usual and established ones, but reservations as well regarding the materiel offered so that later on we will not say:

"Beware of Greeks bearing gifts ..."

Was the mystery of the century thus solved?

I am not sure, but one explanation is better than none ...

9731

CSO: 3521/279

IRAN

SAIRI SPOKESMAN: SADDAM'S DOWNFALL WILL NOT HARM ANY STATE

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 30 May 85 p3

[Text] Political Service - Yesterday afternoon in a press, radio, and television interview Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqer Hakim, the spokesman of Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq among answering the questions of the reporters of the mass media, explained the viewpoints of SAIRI in regard to the new plots of Saddam in creating crisis in the region and the questions related to the imposed war.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim presented evidence and hints stating that the Saddam's regime had been involved in a plot to assassinate the Emir of Kuwait and said: "There is much proof and evidence which indicates that Saddam's regime has been involved in an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the Emir of Kuwait. Saddam's regime is very unhappy about the recent political movements started in some of the Gulf states."

He added: "The statement published under the name of the Islamic Jihad Organization in regard to the assassination attempt of the Emir of Kuwait, was a forged statement and the explosion definitely was carried out by the hands of Iraqi hirelings."

The Changes in the Region.

He said: "In new efforts to end the war and establish peace by the states in the region, now more than ever, the honorable position of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been considered. In this course, we can mention the visit of the Saudi minister of foreign affairs to Iran, the activities of the peace committee of the Islamic conference and also the committee of seven of the foreign ministers of the Arab states."

The spokesman of SAIRI said: "The Iraqi regime is involved in all the explosions and criminal activities occurring in the region. Among these plots and explosions we can name the explosion in Riyadh, plots against the Bahrain regime, penetration of some of the sensitive areas of the United Arab Emirates and the unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the Emir of Kuwait."

Cities and War

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim referred to the growth of the war in the cities and the threats to water and air ways and said: "These threats derive from the frustrated morale and disappointment of the Saddam's regime especially after they suffered great losses."

Plots Against the States in the Region

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim added: "Saddam's regime, which always emphasizes improving the security and interests of the states in the region, must abandon the contemptful methods used against these states, in order for these states to live securely and with complete assurance."

"In reality, Saddam Takriti and the ruling band of Iraq are the fundamental elements of tension and instability in the region. Therefore Saddam's downfall will not harm any state in the region. If the region's regimes are really seeking stability and safeguarding the interest of their nations they must realize that Saddam's downfall will not harm them. Those regimes which at present encounter the Islamic Republic of Iran with realism must use the same policy and realism in the course of encountering the Muslim nation of Iraq."

Beirut Confrontations

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim referred to the confrontations in Beirut and said: "America is instigating some elements in Beirut to open fire on each other in order to get revenge for their disgraceful flight from the Muslim people of Lebanon and to lead the situation toward the path of the Camp David accords."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim in regard to the congregation of Turkish military forces at Iraqi borders said: "The congregation of the Turkish military forces at Iraqi borders is a repetition of the same previous position adopted by the Turkish regime. These efforts and the position of the government of Turkey are based on their expansionism and an excuse to eliminate the interests of the Muslim people of Iraq and the Kurdish brothers in the north of Iraq."

He reminded: "Being adventurous and using Turkish military forces in the north of Iraq will not only be defeated but will expand revolutionary fervor among the Muslims of this country."

In regard to the renewed growth of the war in the cities he said: "The purpose of the growth of war in the cities is to cover up the present political situation which the Iraqi regime is facing since at present and immense international viewpoint exists which believes it is necessary to curtail protection of the Saddam regime."

In conclusion he reminded that: "Fundamental and real changes in Iraq will occur with the hands of the children of the Muslim nation of this country. The efforts of the region states to stop protecting Iraq will cause the isolation of the Saddam regime."

IRAN

VELAYATI DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Jun 85 p3

[Text] Political Service - The fundamental basis of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy relations with other countries is non-interference in internal affairs, non-expansionism, non-domination and establishing legitimate human relations based on mutual respect and equality. The imam of the people and other officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have always emphasized the establishment of relations with other countries of the world, including the superpowers, on this basis.

In an interview with the Arabic language magazine AL-ALAM, published in London, Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, in response to a question about Iranian foreign policy, emphasized the statements of the imminent imam in regard to the need to establish relations with all the countries of the world (except for a group of them) based on the above conditions. In response to the question "Are the efforts to establish relations with other countries an indication of a new policy for the political blockade of Iraq?" he referred to the point that political and military activities have their own special place and reminded that they cannot take each other's place. "Pursuing military activities does not mean ignoring political activities." He emphasized that the backbone of a successful political movement is military power.

In regard to efforts for improving Iranian relations with the countries of the cooperation council of the Persian Gulf, especially Saudi Arabia, Dr Velayati referred to the general policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the great Muslim nations of the region, and its intention to establish friendly relations with its neighbors. He expressed hope that after the passage of time, some of these countries will perceive the political truth and realities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in regard to its good intentions and peaceful coexistence. He reminded: "Now these countries have realized more than ever that no relation either at the regional or world level can replace friendly relations with Iran since Iran is the most important country in the region. Iran has played an important role especially during the history of Islam in

the destiny of this region and no country can deny the role of Iran. Therefore some of these countries have recently expressed greater desire to establish friendly relations with Iran and we consider these moves as a positive step and respect them."

The minister of foreign affairs evaluated Iran's relations with Turkey and Pakistan within the same framework and referred to the fact that each nation in its foreign relations policy must use its efforts within the framework of its national interests. "The standards of the Islamic Republic of Iran in establishing friendly relations with other countries is not based on the friendly or unfriendly relations of a country with the superpowers. Establishing relations with a country does not mean pursuing the same foreign policy of that country." He reminded: "Establishing friendly relations with those countries which have strong and friendly relations with the US (west and NATO) and the USSR (Warsaw Pact) does not violate Iran's basic foreign policy of neither west nor east."

Dr Velayati in response to the question about the official renewal of US-Iraqi relations, the entrance of Iraq to the Jordan-Egyptian axis, its growing closeness to the western camp, and future Soviet reaction after Iraq's recent move of establishing closer relations with the United States replied: "This is the Soviet's business." He referred to the fact that Iran is seeking peaceful relations with its neighboring country, the USSR, which shares Iran's longest border, and both nations have taken positive steps in this regard. "We wish for an increasing expansion of these relations in the political, economic, industrial, and educational fields, based on mutual respect, equality and non-interference in each others internal affairs."

The minister of foreign affairs emphasized Iran's role in establishing reciprocal relations and unity among Arab nations and solving the question of Palestine. He stated: "Islam must be welcomed with a mutual understanding and a foundation for relations among Arab and Islamic nations. We warmly squeeze any hand extended to us by Islamic and Arab nations for protecting the Islamic dynasty and the fulfillment of Islamic ideals. We hope to see the day when the Arab countries are ready to use their potential to liberate occupied Palestine and consider that as the most important question of the Islamic world. That day will be a great and hopeful day for us."

Dr Velayati pointed out that the servitude of some countries to Israel and joining the Camp David accords will not liberate Palestinian lands. He added: "We are sure that these governments will finally be forced to surrender in front of the joint determination of the united Muslim and Islamic nations. Therefore, since the liberation of the holy lands of Palestine is the strategic goal of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we respect any positive step in this regard, and we will respond to any request for aid."

The minister of foreign affairs in regard to Iran's position in relation to the different questions of Lebanon, the Sahara, Eritrea, etc. stated that the different problems of the world must be solved on the basis of their special political and geographical position and their national and social particularities. "It is not possible to prescribe only one prescription for the different regions." He reminded that the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran

in relation to different countries, societies, and nations must agree with their specialities. "But the fundamental view in our foreign policy is to protect the continuation of the Islamic and humane orders in the world and we will defend them. If the Islamic and humane movement comes close to our standards, our aid, and relations will be increased with them too."

9815

CSO: 4640/609

IRAN

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES DETAILS PLANS UNDERWAY

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 14 May 85 p 15

/Text/ As of the latter part of 1362 /21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984/ until now through the formation of 70 self-sufficiency centers within the various industrial groups 25 research projects have been completed and 20 more research projects are underway.

During the years after the victory of the Islamic revolution 16,000 principal agreements for the purpose of establishing industrial units have been issued which indicates people's interest and inclination in making investments in the private sector.

Engineer Shafei, minister of industries, during a press conference while making the above statements also discussed some of the plans which are underway by the Ministry of Industries. First, regarding the number of principal agreements which have been issued, he said: The Ministry of Industries has always been inclined to see that the above stated principal agreements are utilized in the way of production of capital goods, however in practice in such units there have been instances of production of consumer goods which have been prompted by the lack of adequate grounds for the expansion of capital investment industries and the interest of the people to the production industries.

Thereafter, while pointing to the foreign exchange problems faced by the Ministry of Industries he stated: With due regard to the dependence of the country's industries on the raw materials, technological machinery, design and manufacture which all entail the necessity of foreign currency we are always faced with some problems. However, despite the existence of such problems in 1363 a sum of 255 million dollars was assigned to the investments and purchase of machinery and if we continue this method we could, after delineating our industrial priorities, assign certain amount of foreign exchange to various units of industry.

Furthermore, he added: With proper consideration to this fact there has been an effort to attract non-governmental foreign currency so as to direct these new foreign exchanges towards industrial investments. Previously, it had been announced that the owners of foreign exchange could invest in 305 different projects and as a result such a measure would save the country close to 10 million dollars of foreign exchange--while at the same time, for consumer goods

which have the possibility of an export market the necessary principal agreement would be issued accordingly.

While pointing to the fact that at the present time there are 6,000 production units which receive their quota of foreign exchange from the Ministry of Industries, he said: It is predicted that in the current year, the Ministry of Industries might need about six billion dollars of foreign currency in order to cover its exchange expenditures.

While noting the number of self-sufficiency centers which have been formed so far, Engineer Shafei stated: So far these centers have produced favorable results and in view of the fact that the members of these centers are representatives of rival industries yet the final result for the exchange of research ideas have been beneficial.

As regards the sale of shares of nonstrategic factories with their ensuing problems the minister of industries said: After the sale of the shares of these factories the government will get a chance to follow through its own policies, furthermore as a result of the workers participation in the shares of the industrial units the output will increase and thereby more profits will be gained and with the elimination of the government's interference in such affairs there could be a more blossoming of innovative ideas in various units.

With regard to the different problems which are facing the abovementioned issues, he said: Among these issues are the determination of the duties of the factories which fall under section A, evaluation of the cost of the units, executor of the project, the kind of management of such units after their sale, the method and process of workers investments in these units and determination of a defined ceiling for the number of shares to be sold to the general public. In the sale of the factory share the priority will be given to the workers of each unit.

12719

CSO: 4640/616

IRAN

COUNTRY'S ECONOMY REVIEWED BY CLANDESTINE RADIO

GF051650 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 5 Jul 85

/Text/ Recession coupled with inflation, which is one of the most deadly economic ailments, continues to plague Iran causing the economic stiatuion in the country to become more chaotic every day.

While industrial production and the country's agriculture pare suffering from a severe recession, the people's income and purchasing-power gets lower, and the prices rise every day. It is not clear how the workers and civil servants pay for the mindboggling expenses of daily life without adequate salaries. All kinds of other problems exist and each of these in turn create other problems and issues and all these are as a result of mismanagement of the Islamic Republic regime.

This rise in the country's problems still continues. Reports which reach us every day from Iran all describe a chaotic economic situation in the Islamic Republic. One report from Tehran says that people don't have money and the prices are high. Even the shops belonging to the Foundation of the Deprived sell their goods like smuggled items at black market prices. For example chicken is 800 rials / \$8/ per kilogram and Winston cigarettes sell for 480 rials / \$4.8/ per packet and these can be found readily in these shops.

Various reports indicate that influential mullahs and their various organizations are carrying out their actions in the open and are now engaged in outright smuggling.

Tehran's electricity continues to be cut regularly. Most days during the day-light hours it is cut 3 hours and in the afternoons it is cut for 4 hours. Powercuts, especially in the summer, has caused severe problems. There are shortages of water as a result of powercuts and this has caused chaos. People, in the unbearable heat of the summer, must tolerate this situation.

Foodstuffs go bad and stoppages in operating theaters of hospitals and the patient's deaths are some of the results of the powercuts. The country's factories close one after the other because as a result of continued blackouts much of the sensitive and expensive equipment in the factories burns out and the regime is unable to get them working again. Despite this the leaders of the regime are still shamelessly helping Lebanese terrorists.

CSO: 4640/635

IRAN

CLANDESTINE RADIO REVIEWS MUSAVI'S POSITION

GF051640 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 5 Jul 85

/Unattributed commentary titled: "Khomeyni Once Again Saves Prime Minister Musavi"/

/Excerpts/ It seems that Ruhollah Khomeyni has once again saved the government of Mir Hoseyn Musavi from falling. Mir Hoseyn Musavi is under pressure from opposition circles and resigned a few days ago and did not go to the prime ministry for 3 days.

What pushed Khomeyni's ideal government to resignation was its repeated disgraceful defeat in economic affairs and in the running of the country. These defeats were so disgraceful that the opposition grew very vocal even though they know well that Khomeyni personally is standing behind and backing this government.

Mir Hoseyn Musavi is in such a bad shape that the prosecutor general has closed down the morning newspaper SOBH-E AZADEGAN despite all the paper's ties to the prime minister. In addition to this in the mullahs' Majlis it has become so chaotic that even after several months the prime minister has not been able to present to the mullahs of the Majlis a list of three names to replace three members of his cabinet who have resigned.

The mullahs of the Majlis keep picking on Khomeyni's prime minister and have no reservations when it comes to attacking him. They want to remind everyone that if Imam Khomeyni thinks this is a good and faithful government, this is his own personal view and the government's actions do not allow the parliamentarians to remain quiet with regard to the government's mismanagement and its ministers' exaggerated wrongdoings.

Why does Ruhollah Khomeyni back Mir Hoseyn Musavi? Why has he so far prevented his fall several times?

In reply to this question it must be said that Mir Hoseyn Musavi is a sworn Hezbollahi, a reactionary to the limit and a blind fundamentalist. This follower of Khomeyni is like the old buzzard himself. He is the backer of the universities' Islamic Associations and is a supporter of such bodies. Iran's universities have suffered some of their irreplaceable damage because of Mir Hoseyn Musavi. This secular mullah is a backer of choosing fundamentalists and faithfuls rather than experts.

Mir Hoseyn Musavi has created a special intelligence-security unit in the prime ministry. The most important task of this intelligence outfit is to find out about the ideas of students. False admittance and the choosing of students are supervised by Mir Hoseyn Musavi personally.

In addition to this, his spying and newsgathering networks are widespread in many offices and organizations.

While the prices of necessary goods in Iran are rising steadily, Iran's prime minister has sent hundreds of millions of dollars during the past year to Lebanon's Islamic Amal organization and the Islamic Jihad.

Mercenary mullahs in Indonesia, Philippines, Morocco, Sudan, Egypt and other countries get huge sums from Iran's budget upon orders of the prime minister and all these are some of the reasons why Khomeyni is forced to back and save this slave of ignorance at the last minute.

This prime minister has lowered the purchasing-power of the Iranian people by 70 percent and has drawn the production units to a complete standstill. A few days after his deputy in the budget organization, in a directive ordered the closure of all welfare projects underway, Musavi gave \$207 million to liberation movements so that Hezbollah terrorists in Lebanon, Mali and Philippines and other countries can get somewhere.

This kind of prime minister is desiarable to Khomeyni.

CSO: 4640/634

IRAN

CLANDESTINE RADIO COMMENTS ON KHO'INIHA'S APPOINTMENT

GF081856 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 8 Jul 85

/Unattributed commentary/

/Excerpts/ Compatriots, anytime a pawn is put aside and replaced by another in the leadership clique of the Islamic Republic, a part of the internal disagreements and struggle of the regime comes to light, further revealing the struggle between mullahs to obtain power and to get rid of their opponents. Why did they remove mullah Sane'i as state public prosecutor and replace him with mullah Kho'iniha, who is known to have strong leftist and pro-tudeh tendencies? In totalitarian regimes exchanges of pawns make no difference in the suffocating and dictatorial rule of the regime, because nobody has the power of independent decisionmaking in such regimes. Only the absolute ruler's will is dictated to all the pawns who have to blindly accept it. However, changes in the leadership of a dictatorship show deep and undeniable differences which usually exist inside the Tehran leadership. The elements of the regime of the Islamic Republic are involved in differences and fights and no matter how they try to hide this, the removal of one party in a struggle reveals the nature of such struggles, irrespective of all the efforts of the pawns of the regime to hide it. The judicial apparatus of the regime of mullahs, like its counterparts in the administrative and legislative branches, suffers from struggles and disagreements. The removal of mullah Sane'i and his replacement with mullah Kho'iniha in front of Khomeyni and Musavi-Ardabili shows that Khomeyni's attempt to mediate between Musavi-Ardabili and mullah Sane'i was unsuccessful.

Mullah Sane'i, together with mullahs Meshkini and Azari-Qomi, recently signed a joint letter and sent it to Khomeyni. In the letter they warned that the public discontent has put the regime of the Islamic Republic at such a junction that if something is not done soon, there will be an immense explosion which would not spare the life of any of the officials of the regime. This may be one reason for Sane'i's departure. He saw the signs of a coming explosion and attempted to escape before such an explosion, the fire of which would have burned him. He wishes to stop being soiled anymore or to further participate in the innumerable crimes of the Islamic regime.

In any case, the appointment of Kho'iniha as the state public prosecutor has also strengthened the assumption of experts concerning the gradual return of the Tudeh Party members and affiliates to the scene in the Islamic Republic.

Musavi-Kho'iniha, who is famous and known as the red mullah in Iran, is an extremist mullah who believes that Islam without gunpowder has no meaning in the battle for power. The face of this suspect mullah was seen on television for the first time during the plot of the American Embassy hostages. Kho'iniha is the son of a Zanjani mullah known as Sheykh Kho'ini, who was a staunch ally of Pischevari and close aid of the democrat faction in Azarbayjan. During the time that the communists and cessionists came to power in Azarbayjan, Kho'iniha's father established close ties with them and became a powerful element of the faction in Zanzan. After the defeat of the democratic faction and the victorious arrival of the brave Iranian Army in Azarbayjan, the people of Zanzan, who had an immense hatred for this traitorous sheykh, publicly executed him. Mullah Mohammad Kho'iniha, who was 10 at the time of the execution of his father, was taken to Baku by the Soviet forces. He remains in Baku and Caucasia for years. In 1960 he suddenly appeared in Najaf and became a close ally of Ruhollah Khomeyni.

The fact that it was recently announced that 15 officials of the Tudeh Party were sentenced to execution and that the sentences will be carried out soon coincides with Kho'iniha's appointment as the state public prosecutor. This appointment will result in the reversal of the sentences. There is a possibility that the leaders of the Tudeh Party will also be released in order to attract Soviet support. Considering the relationship between mullah Kho'iniha and the Tudeh Party, the view of the experts is that influential and powerful Tudeh Party members will gradually infiltrate the organizations of the regime. Observers also say that Khomeyni may have appointed Kho'iniha to this post in order to speed up executions in prisons while removing Kho'iniha as a candidate for presidency. This was a rumor circulating recently. What is certain is that the extremist groups of the Islamic Republic are gradually removing their moderate opponents from the scene.

CSO: 4640/636

IRAN

EMIGRE PAPER EDITORIAL: IRANIAN NATION IS NOT TERRORIST

London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jun 85 pp 1, 4

/London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh/

/Text/ For the past two weeks once more the name of Iran has been used at the headlines of the reports and the mass media of the East and the West. These unjust people in reporting their seditions don't even say "The Islamic Republic," instead everywhere they mentioned the name of Iran only.

No matter which large or small television or radio station you listen to or what newspaper you look at, you will see or hear the name of Iran above any other news items.

If seven years ago the very seeing or hearing of the name of Iran at any occasion elicited a sense of pride in every Iranian, today thanks to the "Ayatollah and his small and large miracles" the western mass media have found a very interesting "punching bag" and whether the occasion calls for it or not they throw a punch at the nation of Iran. These are the same mass media who six and a half years ago praised the "man who comes from the east" to save the world and the Ayatollah who has 40 million devotees in Iran and the man who lives on a simple piece of skin wrote and said:

Thanks to the Islamic revolution, the present Iran which was dubbed as a fresh "renaissance" for the humanity by the Time newspaper, the Times, Le Monde, and the Liberation, NBC, CBS and BBC six or seven years ago, and when its leaders thanks to the favor of the western mass media were transformed from--an old chamber-residing recluse who in the final moments of his life had no wish other than to see his book printed in Iran--to the Imam of the Age and the new Christ; in less than seven years this man has been transformed by the "moulders of public opinion" of the world--particularly in the West--that whenever and wherever there is an explosion, sedition or carnage in any part of the world they look for the source of the trouble nowhere else but in Iran.

If the painful conscience of those people who created a man like Khomeyni is thinking about undoing their past mistakes, why do these people, at least, not have the courage to pinpoint or attack the true agitators?

Why do they not say that a ruling minority in Iran--who together with their appreciators have put the yoke on a great and proud nation--are the main cause

of all the troubles and the actions taken by these groups should never be considered as something for which the whole Iranian nation will be blamed?

Have you ever seen a noble and principled Iranian who supports the Ayatollah's terrorist actions?

The very act of terrorism, as the giant jinni which has been released from the bottle, is protected and made to ever expand by the West. Assault or attack on the noble nation of Iran cannot produce a remedy to uproot such a giant.

When the leaders of the West gnash their teeth against the expansion of terrorism which is exported by the Ayatollah, and their mass media show the anger of their leaders through bold-letter captions against Iran, isn't there anybody to tell these people that Iran is a country free from the accusation of "being the creator of death and carnage"?

That Iran itself for centuries has been a strong suppressor of death angels and the agitators! If the heroic actions of the Iranian nation with the regime is not considered to be a struggle, then what is a struggle?

Is the West really interested in eradicating the roots of terrorism, while for the last seven years it has put up with all the coquettish acts of those Ayatollahs and still some of its correspondents such as Mr James Dorsey who in a report from Tehran announced: "Ayatollah Khomeyni is still the favorite or beloved personality and that thousands of people in supporting him and the war with Iraq pour into the streets"?

If they consider Khomeyni's regime as being good, why then are they wailing and moaning about kidnaping, hijacking, terrorism and murder?

If it is a bad regime and it has begun to terrorize the world, the real way to fight that regime is not by throwing punches at the Iranian people.

It is possible to fight with Mr Khomeyni, his aids and assistants the same way that the Iranian people are doing it empty-handed.

You should learn how to fight from the Iranian people, and not through the plots of your silence or the extension of an unwarranted credit to that regime undermine the struggles of the Iranian nation.

The TWA hijacking incident and its landing in Beirut and the resultant suspense which has kept the whole world for two weeks in a state of hope and despair is not the first nor will it be the last incident of this kind. As long as the Ayatollah is able to sell cheap oil and directly or through the help of an intermediary is able to purchase arms and ammunition on western markets and with the help of western technology can create the temptation of a "heaven" and "martyrdom" in the painful hearts and feverish and excited thoughts of the Middle East

nations through his loudspeakers, the empire of terrorism will expand each and every day.

Undoubtedly, the observation of some deceived groups who while carrying a picture of the Ayatollah either in Tehran, Beirut or Baalbek--with their eyes full of hatred were shouting "Down with..." and "Martyrdom, martyrdom..."--were all but some of the most shocking scenes witnessed by the Iranian people. Particularly, if we remember that each and every time whether at the bottom of those pictures or somewhere within the text of statements we would see or hear that these lunatics are mentioned to be "pro-Iranian Shiites" or they're "pro-Khomeyni Iranian."

Today, against the Ayatollah's terrorism--which has nothing to do either with Iran or with the shiism--two words Iran and Shiite are registered in people's mind. The nuisance and affliction of such public acceptance within the framework of everyday life of exiled Iranians for sometime now have had its undesirable effects on all of us.

The people look at our children in schools in quite a different way now. Foreign embassies are reluctant to give entry visa to those Iranians who have shown themselves to be the Ayatollah's enemies.

Wherever we say we're Iranians, the people become more cautious and watch us more carefully lest we pull out a hand grenade or a bomb from our pockets, and all this happens at a time when the relatives and cronies of the Ayatollah are traveling throughout the world with a political or service visa.

In these same days when the United States is living in a hysterical atmosphere similar to 1359 /21 March 1980 - 20 March 1981/ and its people and leaders are in a constant state of horror and worry as regards the uncertain fate of the American hostages in Beirut as a result of the new theatrical act of the Ayatollah, a representative of Khomeyni's regime, Hojjat ol-Eslam Majdedin Mahalati as a special envoy of Khomeyni has obtained an entry visa for the United States in the month of Ramadan.

The western people are shouting and screaming against terrorism. then the Iranian nation are punished for it and the money from the sale of the oil which belongs to the people of Iran finds its way in Khomeyni's pocket.

The fight against terrorism is not an easy job, however it is not an impossible task. In this struggle the Iranian nation is fighting at the front line with the terrorists and their international supporters.

The world should know that one day soon the Iranian people will overthrow the terrorists who are ruling their country. That day many facts will be revealed and the whole world will find out who gave the Ayatollahs a free reign so that they can substantiate their own lunacy in the bloodiest way.

12719

CSO: 4640/621

IRAN

IRP ORGAN LAUDS QODS DAY MARCH BY 'SEVERAL MILLION' PEOPLE

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Jun 85 pp 1, 16

/Text/ In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Yesterday, Islamic Iran witnessed one of its most historic days of its history. From early hours in the morning, men, women, the old, the young and even small children passed along tightly squeezed lines through alleys and streets and gathered in and around the meeting places where the Friday prayers are held and formed a sea of humanity and all unanimously shouted: War, war until final victory. All in unison shouted: War, war until the elimination of the wicked and the seditious. All in chorus shouted: Down with the United States. All concordantly shouted: Down with Israel. All in one voice shouted: Down with Saddam. All unisonously shouted: Neither reconciliation nor surrender, war until the final victory. All in accord shouted: We do not come from Kufeh, only may the imam remain alive and all unisonantly shouted: O God, O God, don't take away Khomeyni until the arrival of the Imam of the Age!

Tehran, this city of resistance, this ever-victorious base of the revolution, this only Islamic capital of pure Mohammadanism and this arena of the meeting place of several million Hezbollahis, was all ebullition and excitement yesterday. Millions of Tehran inhabitants came out of their homes yesterday and once more proved that all the plots which were hatched by the enemies of Islam to maneuver the Iranian nation into reconciliation were but futile efforts. The inhabitants of Tehran in unison with all the people of Iran with shouts much louder than any other shouts and as audible as the shout of Moses they said "no" to the Pharaohs of the time.

Yesterday, Iran proved that it is worthy, competent and capable of Islam. And yesterday Tehran proved that it is similar to Qods, Karbala, Kaaba and Arafat-- it is reasonable, sensible and bright. Yesterday the Iranian people brought down their stones of denial over the head of the United States, hit Israel on the forehead and smashed the mouth of the blood-thirsty leaders of the Ba'thist regime of Baghdad and victoriously walked toward the altar. Yesterday was the day of sacrifice for the Iranian nation. It was a day when people proved that not only are they ready to give their lives for Islam but they would like to give all their worldly possessions for the sake of their religion before they sacrifice their soul...in order to hasten the visit of their Creator in a more tranquil, genuine and unencumbered manner.

Did yesterday's great epic, which was created by the people with all its grandeur and magnificence, go unnoticed by the eyes of the bats? Will the liberals, the hypocrites and the monarchists as always once more deny the facts and report to their friends in Baghdad that the people did not come out of their homes? Will the liberals sit in their cool and refreshing homes in the higher quarters of the city once more and wait to see what the reaction of the British government's radio be as regards this long march by the people and what will they note about the number of the supporters of the continuation of the war and until the final victory? Considering the fact that the people of Tehran and the Iranian nation unanimously voiced their desire for Saddam's overthrow and that they will continue the war until this wish is fulfilled, yet will the liberals go on writing in their analyses and reports that the motto of: "War, war until victory" is a vague motto which does not indicate any specific goal? Will those who are infatuated by the West, once more as usual and based on western beliefs and in the framework of an Americanized Islam treat the Koranic verses and traditions ever so lightly and through their superficial understanding of the incidents invite enemies' war planes to bombard our cities?

The response to all these questions can be negative only when those individuals in question join the nation and instead of their personal and clannish analyses, set as standard the people's analysis. Of course, for those individuals who consider themselves beyond reproach and above the rest, such a move is not only difficult but in fact it seems impossible.

Therefore, the people have the right to know who should be responsible for bringing the individuals who are acting in the role of the enemy's fifth column to account. These are the individuals who through their encouragement and analyses invite the enemy to pour bombs and rockets over our city inhabitants. Despite the war crimes of Saddam and his bombardment of the cities with rockets and missiles, despite the propaganda of the world arrogance and Zionism and the rumor-mongering of their domestic agents and despite the deadly silence of the international forums against the continuous crimes of the rulers of Baghdad and most importantly despite the frequent threats of Saddam and twice transgressing Tehran's air space, bombing and strafing several cities when the people were walking towards their meeting places, yesterday the Iranian nation proved that they will not be satisfied with anything less than the downfall of Saddam and the opening of the road to Qods (Jerusalem) through the conquest of Karbala. Our people are ready to come to the streets in a show of force as many times as is necessary like yesterday while they were even fasting and show their steady resolve for the continuation of the war until the downfall of Saddam. But the important thing is to ask who is responsible for bringing Saddam's partners to account and who has abetted in the commitment of so many crimes throughout our cities? Saddam's partners in these crimes comprise the hypocrites, the liberals, the monarchists and the foreign correspondents who are residing in Tehran. It is these people who through their analyses, reports and the misrepresentation of information try to show that the people are getting tired of the war and that by dropping bombs, rockets and missiles over the cities they can stir

their emotions and exert pressure on the authorities to force them into accepting a reconciliation. Yesterday the Iranian people clearly proved that such reports, analyses and information are baseless and are only motivated by self-interest. Therefore, this action of the people can be a good lesson for those individuals who would like to become familiar with the realities. The enemy's fifth column should know that if as before they don't heed this lesson, naturally they have to face the same people who marched through the streets yesterday.

It is also a good thing for the satanic powers to learn from this action, too. They know quite well that when a whole nation enters the arena of action, there is no power which can bring it to its knees. Yesterday, the Iranian nation clearly proved that, as on the days of the culmination of the revolution, they are strong and stable in order to support Islam in the arena of action. They cannot drive these people out of the scene of action by threat, propaganda or through war and bombardments. What happened to the United States and its illegitimate child, Israel, in Lebanon was the manifestation of the will of a revolutionary Muslim nation which was engaged even inside its own territory with a war with a puppet government and several mercenary armies. Despite all the prevailing difficulties the Muslim nation of Lebanon in addition to the United States, also succeeded in driving out the occupiers of the Qods from their land. If the residents of the White House are wise enough, they will understand that the enemies will be even more desperate and impotent against Iran whose government is appointed by the people and its nation which is the supporter of the government.

The unparalleled power which was displayed by the Iranian nation yesterday is the same power which led it to the victory of the revolution and with this same power it intends to clear the heartland of the Islamic nation from the cancerous tumor of Zionism, namely the occupying regime of Qods and its fetid outgrowth, the Ba'thist regime of Saddam. This is a job which this nation has the ability to accomplish even though all the satanic powers opt to the contrary.

Yesterday, men and women and the Iranian children all had but one word which in reality answered all the plots, mischievousness and the hollow threats of the revolution's enemies--it is this same remark which horrifies all the satanic powers: We are ready to fight to the end.

12719
CSO: 4640/619

1 August 1985

IRAN

MILITARY DRAFT EXEMPTIONS ANNOUNCED

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 14 May 85 p 2

/Text/ The students who for certain reasons decide to discontinue their education in the universities and higher educational institutions of the country or decide to change their course of study and take part in the general university entrance examinations are bound to introduce themselves to the Military Conscription Department as soon as they decide to quit their studies.

Colonel Khalil Razmju, director of the Gendarmerie General Conscription Department of the Islamic Republic in an interview with IRNA's correspondent discussed the details and process of surety, medical and educational exemptions which are reflected in the executive regulations of the general military service laws.

As regards the surety exemption he stated: Those eligible conscripts can be exempted from service who are the only male offspring of their parent(s) and are over 18 years of age. Furthermore, if the eligible conscript has an older brother who as a result of an illness or some physical defect as confirmed by the Medical Council cannot support his parent(s) or if the older brother of an eligible conscript is a POW or missing, then in such cases the conscript can take advantage of the surety exemption as provided by law.

In the executive regulations there is no condition set regarding the age, employment or the source of income for a father whose only son has requested to be granted the surety exemption. The only prevailing condition is that according to the views of the Medical Council the father of a male offspring need only be in such a physical state which will require the care and protection of his son. The same exemption automatically will be granted to the son of a woman who has lost her husband, if her son is 18 years of age or older. Likewise, the exemption will be granted to an 18 year old son regardless of the age or source of income of the mother. However, if the mother is divorced the effective date of the divorce has to be prior to the effective date of the eligible conscript's age.

As regards the minor sister and brother, their age also should be under 18 years. Colonel Razmju emphasized that generally the surety exemptions are temporary and are renewable annually up to five years. After that period if the conditions for exemption have remained the same, a perpetual exemption will

be granted to the conscript in question.

Provisions for exemption have also been made as regards the grandfather and grandmother who do not have any children except a grandson who is over 18 years of age, in such cases their grandson will be given military exemption.

Colonel Razmju also noted that in the new laws and regulations one kind of exceptional temporary exemption has been predicted for those eligible conscripts who have a sister who is 18 years or older and has not gotten married before the age of 24; however, after the sister reaches 24 years of age whether she is married or not her only brother will be required to serve his military service.

Thereafter, the director of the General Conscription Department discussed the various cases of medical exemptions and said that a series of physical defects or illnesses which were previously considered sufficient cause for perpetual exemption, such as flatfoots, missing one index finger knucklebone or weakness of the eyes, are no longer considered to be sufficient cause for exemption and the conscripts in question will be assigned to administrative or non-combat service according to their capability.

He went on to add: In general the eligible conscripts who claim medical surety exemption will be examined by the Medical Council which is composed of three physicians from the Ministry of Health and if in the view of this council the conscript in question is found capable to perform military service, the views of the medical council members will be unobjectionable; however, if in their view the conscript is found to be eligible for exemption then the Military Conscription Department is authorized to object to the views of the physicians after five years from the date of the announcement of such a view, otherwise the medical council views will be totally binding.

As regards the cases where educational exemptions are applicable, while he pointed to the fact that the age ceiling has been omitted he also stated: As long as an eligible conscript continues his education he will be exempt from military service; however, as soon as he quits school or is expelled from the educational institution where he is studying he will not be able to use the applicable educational exemption since this kind of exemption is granted only once.

Therefore, we would like to point out to the students who leave school at the end of a school year and decide to participate in the university entrance examinations anew, in order to change their course of study that as soon as they quit school these students are obliged to introduce themselves to the General Conscription Department and if they're granted an exemption by the said department they can go back to school, otherwise they will be drafted into military service and have to finish their service before going back to school.

He also added that the seminary students are exempt as long as they're engaged in study at the seminaries, however if they leave the seminary in order to enter the university they are obliged to introduce themselves to the General Conscription Department in order to determine their draft eligibility.

In continuation of his remarks, Colonel Razmju emphasized that on the basis of the new laws, service in the military organizations and the three disciplinary forces of army, gendarmerie, police and guardian corps and the Islamic revolutionary Komitehs will be considered as military service; otherwise, those individuals whose service is in other organs and institutions will not be considered as military service per se.

With regard to recent violations which have been committed by some of the eligible draftees, he noted that those conscripts who have lost their military exemption certificate and are carrying a duplicate can under no circumstances be entered into the lottery drawing and their place of service with the military will be determined by the General Conscription Department.

The director of the General Conscription Department also announced: Those draftees who without the knowledge of the General Conscription Department are accepted to serve in the military or disciplinary services except the Guardian Corps and the Komitehs, their length of service with these organizations will not be considered as military service.

Regarding the age of the draftees he said that the age of eligible conscripts will be based on the first entry dates of their first birth certificates, and any other changes which have been made thereafter even though by a competent court will not be valid for the purpose of military service since according to the law, the Military Conscription Department is obliged to make decisions following the first entries of a birth certificate.

Concerning the absenteeism of the draftees colonel Razmju said that with a view to the fact that our present requirements have been fulfilled in the month of Ordibehesht /21 Apr - 21 May/ yet up to the 18th of Khordad /June 8/ of the current year those draftees who have not introduced themselves to the Conscription Department will not be considered as absentees; otherwise, after that date the absentees will be dealt with according to the new laws.

He also added that the medical and surety exemption certificates of the conscripts who were borne in 1338 /21 March 1959 - 20 March 1960/ and after are printed by computer and all other forms of certificates are invalid. It has been arranged so that the new computerized certificates will be issued two months after the beginning date of exemption.

As regards the special exemption which are granted to the martyr's family he stated that according to the single article which has been approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly one member of a family who has a martyred son or father can be eligible for exemption.

As for the families of the POWs or those missing in action, in the new laws it has been predicted that if the only son of a family is taken as prisoner of war or is missing in action the family in question can use a 5-year exemption for its minor son who is close to becoming eligible for conscription and wait to see so that the status of the POW or the missing person is determined.

He also went on to add that the brother or the only child of the invalid individuals who according to the views of the Medical Council are not capable to support themselves can be granted military exemption--if there are minor son(s) in the family such exemptions can be granted temporarily.

He also noted that: We will not have any extra or unneeded draftees in the future and those individuals who think that by avoiding to introduce themselves to the General Conscription Department they will be able to shirk military service are making a mistake.

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END